Saturday, November 22, 2008 • Vol. 23 / No. 348 website: www.inquirer.net



SO EXCITING What's up on the billboard (with 2 members of the UP Pep Squad) is exactly the sentiments of President Arroyo at the opening on Friday of the P6-B UP-Ayala Land Techno Hub on 37.5 ha at the south side of the Diliman campus in Quezon City.

Ex-Ping aides held in US

Mancao, Dumlao arrested over Dacer murder case

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THEY MAY HAVE REACHED A DEAD END.

Almost eight years to the day after the twin murders of Filipino publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, two former top lieutenants of ex-national police chief and now Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson were arrested separately in the United States on Thursday morning.

The arrests of former police Senior Superintendents Cesar Mancao II and Glenn Dumlao were made on the strength of extradition requests from the Philippine government, which had sought custody of them so they could face trial for the killings of Dacer and Emmanuel Corbito, Department of Justice officials said yesterday.

Justice Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor told reporters that Mancao and Dumlao could try and fight their extradition to the Philippines.

Dacer, a well-known public relations man who worked for several prominent politicians, and Corbito were abducted in the morning of Nov. 24, 2000 along Osmeña Highway at the boundary of Manila and Makati while on their way to Dacer's office at the Manila Hotel.

They were never seen alive again.

Investigation later revealed that Dacer and Corbito were brought to Dasmariñas, Cavite, where they were interrogated and tortured. Then they were taken to Indang, Cavite, where they were strangled to death and their bodies burned.

Lacson declined immediate comment, saying he did not

EX-PING/A21



THE VICTIM: Bubby Dacer INQUIRER PHOTO



EX-SUPT. CESAR MANCAO II Affidavit names him a plotter.



EX-SUPT. GLENN DUMLAO Affidavit implicates Lacson.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

Abducted at noon on a busy Makati street

By Inquirer Research

PROMINENT PUBLICIST SALVADOR "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, were abducted while cruising near the intersection of Zobel Roxas Street and President Osmeña Highway in Metro Manila on Nov. 24, 2000. They were brought to Cavite, where they were strangled to death, burned and buried.

Their remains were recovered months later from a creek bed in Cavite and identified by forensic experts in April 2001, based on the victims' dental records and personal things.

As investigation ensued, two suspects-turned-witnesses, Jimmy Lopez and Alex Diloy, both farmers, came for-

ABDUCTED/A21

P6-billion UP-Ayala techno park opens

By TJ Burgonio and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lazaro

HAVING FAILED TO GET A NAtional broadband network project off the ground, President Macapagal-Arroyo is settling for turning each of the country's 81 provinces into an information technology and communications hub.

"Each to his own need and this is what we can do given that we have not been able to put together a national broadband. This is a good second best," the President told her audience at the launch yesterday of Ayala Land's P6-billion science and information technology park at the University of the Philippines in Quezon City.

She said that with the robust growth being experienced by the information and communications technology (ICT) sector, transforming each Philippine province into an information and communications technology "enabler" was logical.

P6-BILLION/A6

GMA classmates launch campaign to amend Charter

By Fe Zamora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

"IF NOT NOW, WHEN?"

Ateneo alumnae mouthed this activist slogan as they aired a common cause as early as last month: Amend the 1987 Constitution while President Macapagal-Arroyo is still in power.

The call for Charter change

GMA CLASSMATES/A8

Senators vow to fight House Con-ass bid

By Christine O. Avendaño in Manila and Nestor P. Burgos Jr. in Iloilo City

SENATORS FROM THE NEW majority and minority yesterday vowed to to fight the fresh attempt of the House of Representatives to amend the 1987 Constitution without the participation of the Senate.

Sen. Mar Roxas called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop her son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, and her other allies in the House from proceeding with their effort to push a constituent assembly (Con-ass) as a means to amend the Charter.

Roxas said the latest Charter change initiative showed "how unfeeling and out of touch this government is, [as well as] the allies of the President." He berated the movers of the new initiative for purportedly focusing on politics and their desire to remain in power at a time when the country was facing an economic crisis.

According to Roxas, the new initiative is "the last card of the President" and "the last effort to

SENATORS/A6



"BY CHANCE" After denials he had anything to do with the Senate coup, ex-President Estrada meets Enrile at the birthday party of Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco at the Navotas City Hall on Friday.

Palace downplays GMA son's role in Cha-cha; Mikey points to JDV



By TJ Burgonio and Tonette Orejas

THE ELDEST CHILD OF PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo prefers to be treated as an ordinary member of the administration coalition.

Thus, according to the President's political adviser Gabriel Claudio, "it's not correct, much less fair, to conclude that [Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo] is behind Cha-cha in the House."

Claudio yesterday described

PALACE/A8

Oil firms cut gas prices by ₱1 per liter

FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS week, local oil firms slashed prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by P1 per liter starting midnight last night as crude prices plunged below $49 per barrel.

Pilipinas Shell, Petroleum Corp. and Petron Corp. implemented the price cut at 12:01 a.m. Saturday while other local firms are expected to follow suit.

Just last Tuesday, the LPG Marketers Association slashed its prices by P2 per kilogram or P22 per 11-kg cylinder of liquefied petroleum gas.

The price cuts brought prevailing pump rates in Metro

OIL FIRMS/A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

Peru erects monument for RP nat'l hero Jose Rizal

By Michael Lim Ubac

LIMA, PERU (VIA PLDT)—Peruvians honor today Dr. Jose Rizal with a monument, the first for a national hero of a foreign country.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will lead the unveiling of the bust of the country's national hero two hours before the formal opening of the 16th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) leaders' meeting in this Peruvian capital city on Saturday morning (11 p.m. Manila time).

Philippine honorary consul and former Peru Tourism Minister Ramiro Salas-Bravo said President Arroyo "has the singular distinction of being the first head of state to grace the unique and historic inauguration" of the first public plaza in Peru named after a foreign national hero.

Rizal is recognized as a great Filipino whose martyrdom in 1896 sparked the first revolt in Asia against Western subjugation. Historians fete him as the "Pride of the Malay Race" being the first citizen of Asia to advocate and introduce Western ideas of social and political liberalism.

President Arroyo, accompanied by First Gentleman Jose

PERU/A18

Second FRONT PAGE

MEGALOTTO 6/45: 4 5 18 24 36 45 — P49,239,210.60

Moro deal junked with finality

Agreement unconstitutional, SC affirms

THE SUPREME COURT HAS ruled with finality that Malacañang's aborted Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MoA-AD) with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front was unconstitutional.

[illegible]

Scrapped

[illegible]

A state in all but name

[illegible]



appliance
CENTER
Libreng Appliances Araw-Araw
Get TRIPLE chances to win for every ₱1,000 purchase using any HSBC credit card
Get a chance to WIN more prizes!
Weekly Draws!
one of
8 LG Home Appliance Showcases
Grand Draw!
1 SportUtility Truck Navara
0% INTEREST
HSBC
The world's local bank
50

Ouster to spur Villar bid, says ally



By TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra



VILLAR



VILLAR ETHICS PROBE

No need for Ping to inhibit

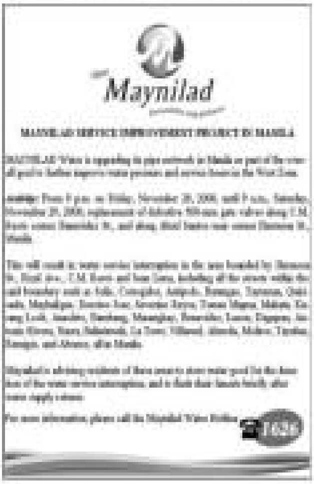
Christine O. Avendaño



LACSON







2 Abu members nabbed

By Marlon Ramos


The special people in your life deserve no less than a special pasalubong.
Red Ribbon
Surprise your family with a Red Ribbon Pasalubong Pack.
Get them to enjoy a delicious variety of pastries like
Ensaimada, Butter Cake, Taisan Loaf, Banana Crunch, Mamon and a lot more.
Bring home something special today!
It's more beautiful with a Red Ribbon


Hello?
SORRY ALL LINES ARE BUSY NOW.
Laging busy sa unlimited network?
Turn red mobile

₱6-billion UP-Ayala techno park opens



SPECIAL GUESTS



BUILDING THE DREAM

Cyber corridor

Centennial project

ICT enabler

Who's Who in

BPO looking for more workers, not laying off people, says GMA

Oil firms cut gas prices by ₱1 per liter

Lowest since 2005

The hits keep on coming

$30 to $40 a barrel?

Doom and gloom

Stock markets fall

Solons eye pay hike for teachers

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE HOUSE COMmittee on Appropriations has agreed to look into the proposal of the Department of Education (DepEd) to upgrade the salary bracket of public school teachers which, if approved, would increase their basic pay.

Some congressmen had initially wanted to just incorporate proposals to increase the pay of teachers in the proposed new salary standardization law which will increase the salaries of all government employees.

But education assistant secretary Jonathan Malaya said the education department felt this was unfair because it would not address the "basic disparity in salary grades."

Malaya said the current salary grade of public school teachers equaled that of the lowest ranking policemen.

This was unfair, Malaya said, because the requirements for a public school teacher—to complete a four-year course and pass the board exams and the civil service licensure exams, among others—would match the requirements for a police inspector.

Senators vow to fight House Con-ass bid

GMA classmates launch campaign to amend Charter

Palace downplays GMA son's role in Cha-cha; Mikey points to JDV

Erap says he'll fight Cha-cha 'to the hilt'


MERRY World-Class
CHRISTMAS FROM S&R.
S&R
S&R
BE A MEMBER NOW!


Kamusta na?
Laging choppy sa unlimited network?
Turn red
mobile

Apec advisory group cites need for rebuilding confidence

By Michael Lim Ubac

Peru erects monument for RP nat'l hero Jose Rizal

From page A1

Key to the city

Plaque markers

Bilateral talks

Recommendations

PNP chief denies damning report on euro general's trip

RUNNING AWAY FROM FIGHT?

Don't abandon impeach rap, JDV urged



DE VENECIA





OMBUDSMAN PROBE

Bolante tells same old story

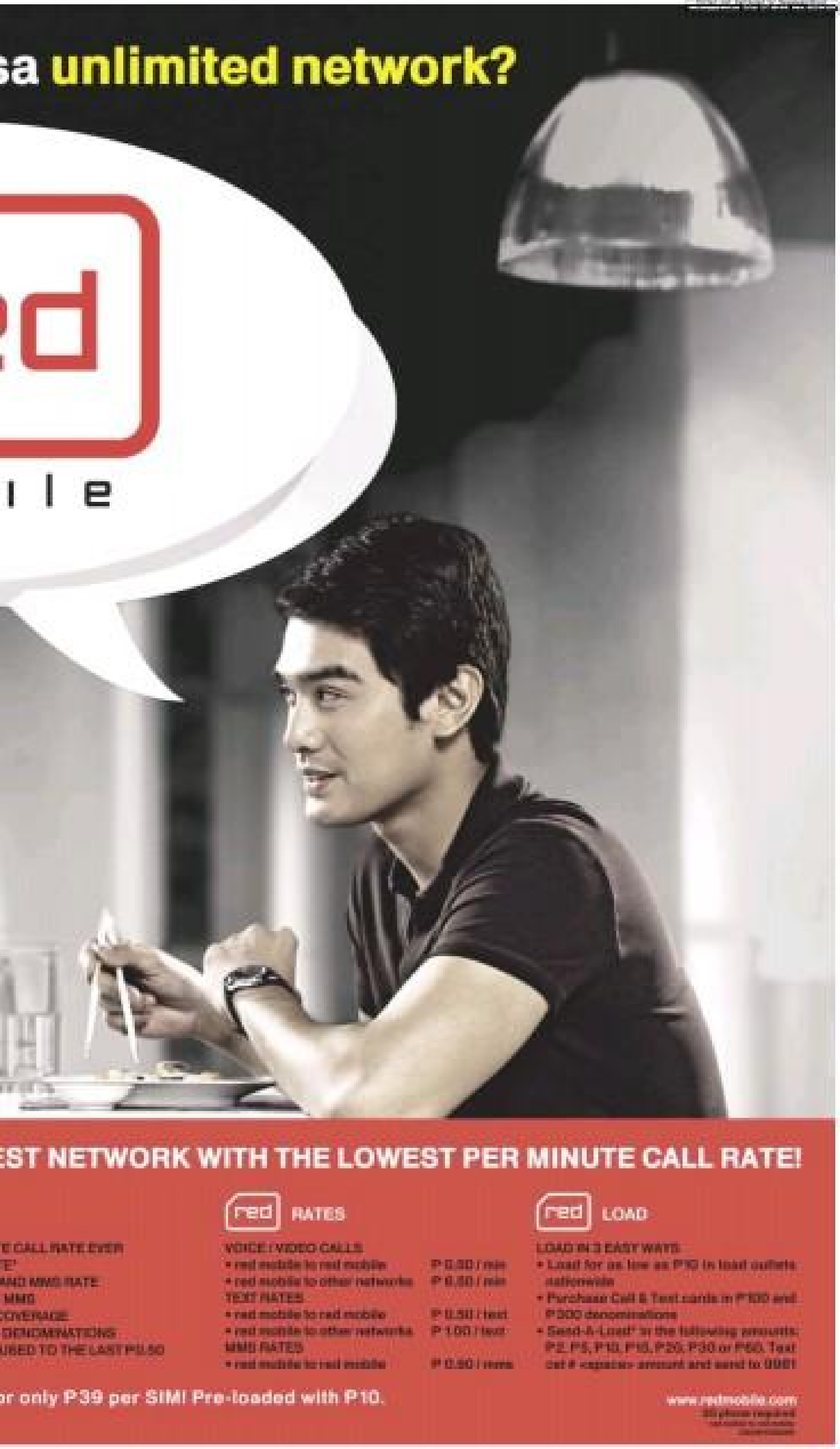


Foreign traders hail new visa

Right on time




Bakit ka pa magtitiis
Turn
₱0.50
per minute!*
per text!*
per mms!*
Clear • Easy • Countrywide
Enjoy it up to your last ₱0.50! Sa P5, may
10 min. call ka pa! Kaya ba ng network mo yan?
red
EDGE


sa unlimited network?
ile
EST NETWORK WITH THE LOWEST PER MINUTE CALL RATE!
red RATES
red LOAD
VOICE / VIDEO CALLS
TEXT RATES
MMS RATES
or only P39 per SIM! Pre-loaded with P10.

INQUIRER
OPINION

Cheating the poor

ON NOV 18, THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY published an innocuous-looking notice in the papers: "In reference to our previous announcement we would like to remind the public that effective December 1, 2008, the sale of highly subsidized NFA rice at P18.25 per kilogram will be limited to those holders of Family Access Card (FAC) in NCR and Rice Allocation Ledger (RAL) at the provincial level as validated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development."

EDITORIAL

Behind that notice is a story of incompetence, inefficiency and buck-passing, and of officialdom being blind to what the public could clearly see all along: their leaders and fellow citizens subverting the system for personal advantage.

When the government admitted that there was a rice crisis, it also announced that it would pour billions of pesos into providing subsidized rice for the poor and that it would institute rationing to ensure that everyone would get at least something. What followed was a stampede, as lines formed and government's perennially creaky infrastructure groaned under the weight of public panic and official promises.

Observers began to notice that the lines forming had a curious human composition. People would appear who weren't residents of the area. There seemed to be roving bands of entrepreneurial folk—whole families at a time—queuing up to then resell their subsidized rice to middle-class types who wanted to save on rice for their household help or company employees. We won't even go into the whispered allegations of importers profiting from the emergency purchases decreed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, or the politicians who found sorting out the confusing queuing going on to be a good way to allocate patronage.

The emergency purchase and distribution of rice was funded by the DSWD. But as the crisis atmosphere concerning rice, then oil, have dissipated, to be replaced by growing concern over the global financial crisis, it seems that the government threw good money after bad, with nothing to show for it as far as rice is concerned.

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral, who has had her fair share of having otherwise rational pro-poor programs altered beyond recognition by the President's obsession with political patronage above all else, admitted recently that what the World Bank said in a report was true: Only a third of the rice bought in great quantities and at great cost, for resale at subsidized prices for the poor (families with five members, and a monthly income of P5,000), found its way into the hands of the poor. As much as 41 percent of the subsidized rice, on the other hand, found its way into non-poor households, which, as we've pointed out, was widely noticed and commented on during the rice crisis. The two wealthiest sectors of society, according to the same World Bank study, consumed 16 percent of the NFA's subsidized rice—again something conspicuous during the rice crisis, when chauffeurs waited for the entrepreneurial beneficiaries to sell their rations to the drivers' bosses.

Everyone, we believe, will welcome both Cabral's admission that something is wrong (studies to look at the organizational flaws, bureaucratic inefficiency and mismanagement of our government agencies represent a worthy and useful thing to do, and not just "destabilization") and the NFA's efforts to fix matters by refocusing on validating the identities of those who want subsidized rice. But this is a government that has periodically engaged in trying to map the population without, it seems, ever accomplishing the task in a manner that actually works.

The flaws in the system point to two real problems: the way the national government finds even well-intentioned programs swamped by the sheer logistics required by such programs, and the way local governments, which are supposed to be an increasingly independent partner and not just a servant of the national government, end up thinking only of patronage and short-term political gain, and not the common good. The end result is billions wasted, public confidence further reduced, and the poorest of the poor getting the short end of the stick.



Filipinos and their Constitution

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

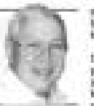
Aging

GET REAL

Sylvia Estrada-Claudio

Consumer coping with hard times

SOCIAL CLIMATE



Mahar Mangahas

When reform leads to revolution

COMMENTARY

Butch Hernandez

'Anonymous'

COMMENTARY

Roberto S. Salva

Season of goodbyes

YOUNG BLOOD

Angeline Delloso

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS

THEY SAID

Callousness

A doctor's duty

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Gracious losers in RP elections

LETTERS

SSS acts fast on 'nightmare' case

Organic farming info, now online

In contrast: Miriam's graceless 'explanation' for lost bid

GSIS has refund mechanism

'Aswang' a form of social control

American ambassador, acting as clerk of GMA

INQUIRER Visayas
E-mail: [illegible]
Website: [illegible]
Editor: Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief: [illegible]

Boracay land conflict boils over

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Boracay Island



POLICEMEN came to support the [illegible] demolition of walls on Boracay Island.

THE SCENE WOULD HAVE been unimaginable years ago: Policemen and demolition team members facing off with occupants of a commercial lot enclosed with barbed-wire on the famous white beach of Boracay Island.

[illegible]

Prized property

[illegible]

Environment on back seat

[illegible]

Unregulated development

[illegible]

Tough decisions

[illegible]

But for how long?

5 dead in new landslide in Diwalwal

TAGUM CITY—AT LEAST FIVE PERSONS, including a child, were confirmed dead while several others remained unaccounted for following a second landslide in the mining village of Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley late Thursday, authorities said.

Previous evacuation

Missing

Miscommunication



DISPUTED

Group starts Baguio-Cotabato peace caravan

Poorest

Cordillera lesson

Bishop flunks Pangasinan governor on 'jueteng' war

'Of course, we all know that jueteng money is used… for campaign purposes'



Binay downplays Erap's possible presidential bid

NEWSBRIEFS

TACLOBAN CITY

2 fishers missing

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

Rebel's body exhumed

SAN PABLO CITY

SSS pays P1B benefits

CAVITE

Elderly woman, hit by 2 vehicles, survives

BATANGAS

Holdup men nabbed



CHRISTMAS DECOR

Aspirants

Mixed up

Typhoid-stricken town declares state of calamity

DSWD starts databank to protect poor from politicians

Bala said 'major leakages' have been detected from local government programs that are partnered with the Department of Social Welfare and Development projects such as the food-for-school program

Honor student loses fight for life after stabbing

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

How do you optimize your child's ability to learn? Ask the experts.

Minds in Progress

Get expert advice to help you prepare your child for progress.

How can movement help your child to learn? Will the development of personal care habits help him learn? What is the link between talking and learning?

Join Minds in Progress, an educational workshop conducted by experts in the field of child care. Discover how to enrich your child's learning through lectures by some of the country's top pediatricians. Let your young ones experience the joy of learning through activities facilitated by Camp Explore!



JOIN NOW!

Enjoy a day of learning for FREE!

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

November 22-23 at the Festival Mall

December 13-14 at the Ayala Center Cebu

For more information, please contact:

CARELINE 81-99384

This workshop is open only to non-pregnant women and mothers with children 3 years and older.

Ex-Ping aides held in US



Lacson declines to issue statement

Erap refuses to answer questions: Ask Ping

Abducted at noon on a busy Makati street




Others glance at history.
He'll walk you through it.
Hundreds of historical landmarks.
Thousands of untold stories.
One extraordinary tour guide brings them all to life through vivid storytelling.
Carlos Celdran believes that when you go to great lengths to communicate, you don't just make a connection.
You make a difference.
PLDT. 80 Years of Changing Lives.
80
PLDT

A plus METRO

Warning device fails to save surgeon

Doc tries to avoid road sign on Edsa flyover, rams lamppost instead

AN EARLY WARNING DEVICE MEANT TO SAVE motorists from accidents led to the untimely death of a surgeon after the car he was driving crashed into a lamppost as he tried to avoid a warning sign on Edsa-Roxas Boulevard flyover in Pasay City early yesterday morning.

[illegible]



TRANSFORMATION RUN

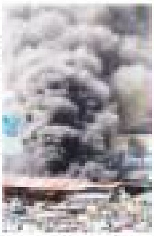
[illegible]

Cop happy relating good news to colleagues when death came

[illegible]

Fire substation beside Baclaran LRT station

[illegible]



FIRE engulfs a mall beside the Baclaran LRT station.

Rise in cases of 'empty nest' killings alarms Metro cops

Surveillance

Defenseless

Doing their part



'ALAY-LINIS' DRIVE

MetroBriefs

Midwife found dead inside motel room

'Hot meat' worth P100M seized

Memorial for barangay execs pushed

Good news for Las Piñas City employees

He needs help for bone marrow transplant

QC shootout leaves 1 dead, 2 others hurt

'A lot of people don't see how beautiful they are...'



SANCHEZ

4 suspected robbery gang members fall

Big humiliation for the Army

ON TARGET



US auto rescue plan collapses

Fate of GM, Ford and Chrysler now uncertain

Colombia police tear-gas pyramid scheme clients



CLIENTS of the illegal investment company DMG protest in Bogota on Nov. 20. DMG raised tens of millions of dollars annually by offering some 200,000 investors extraordinary interest rates, as high as a 300-percent returns over six months.

Aide: Obama on track to nominate Clinton



Pushing a stroller? Best that the baby faces you

US spy agencies say Qaida appeal could soon decline

DVD profits are sagging

26 malnourished children die in Haiti



YENICIA Louis, 4, who suffers from malnutrition, is weighed at the Doctors Without Borders hospital in Port-au-Prince, on Nov. 19.

America has become less attractive to Mexican migrants

The WORLD

Editor: Lourdes B. Gomez

MGS SPENDS 23RD ANNIVERSARY WITH CHILDREN AT GK SUNSHINEVILLE

The smiles make it all worthwhile

[illegible]



THE BANNER SAYS IT ALL. Halfway through installing pavers in the children's playground, MGS officers and staff take a break to show that they are still all smiles.



ALL WORTHWHILE. The seemingly tireless staff of MGS labor to install pavers in the children's playground, bearing in mind the countless smiles it will bring the kids of GK Sunshineville.



TIME TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK. After a meaningful feeding program, officers and employees of MGS Corporation pose for a group photo with the kids of GK Sunshineville.

Somali pirates demand $25M for Saudi tanker

MOGADISHU—SOMALI PIRATES WHO HIJACKED A SAUDI OIL supertanker demanded a $25-million ransom on Thursday amid calls for tougher action to end threats to one of the world's key maritime routes.

[illegible]

AFP

World's navies struggle to deter Somali pirates

[illegible]

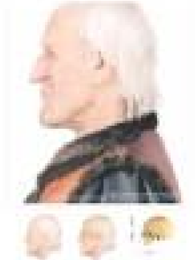
AFP

Scientists identify Copernicus' remains, grave

WARSAW, POLAND—RESEARCHERS SAY they have identified the remains of Nicolaus Copernicus by comparing DNA from a skeleton and hair retrieved from one of the 16th-century astronomer's books.

[illegible]

AP



A COMPUTER-GENERATED reconstruction of what astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus may have looked like on the basis of a skull discovered in the cathedral in Frombork, northern Poland.

Live AIDS Silver: The UP Centennial Edition

If you want to laugh and escape from the difficulties of life, **Live AIDS (Ang Istoryang Dinibelop ng SAMASKOM)** is the show for you! Love and passion fuel this annual musical-comedy series built by **UP SAMASKOM (Samahan ng Mga Mag-Aaral sa Komunikasyon)**, a student organization based in the UP College of Mass Communication.

This year's show, billed as "**Live AIDS Silver: The UP Centennial Edition**", is a tribute to the University of the Philippines directed by Ned Legaspi. For its 25th year, residents and alumni members are set to give highly-energized performances on November 28, 29, and 30, 2008 at the UP Theater. Top humorists Giselle Sanchez, Tuesday Vargas, theater actor RS Francisco, singer Mitoy Valera [illegible], stand up comedians Ms. Aiko, and [illegible] headline the show. It is supported by the UP Centennial Commission as it reaches its one quarter of UP's 100th celebration.



Comedienne and SAMASKOMer **Tuesday Vargas** will take part in the 25th installment of LIVE A.I.D.S. on November 28,29&30, 2008 at the UP Theater.





"Live AIDS Silver: The UP Centennial Edition" [illegible]

Live AIDS is a parody of life. It humorizes the struggles of everyday living and generates social awareness to the audience. "It's more than a laughing trip – it's a look at our lives and a recreated reality," said Director Ned Legaspi. This witty production show makes us forget sorrow and lets us look at life from a comical point of view.

The "magic" of Live AIDS lies on the dedication of SAMASKOM to give back to the organization and university that we love. Laughters, sweat and tears define the experiences that we share. This strengthens our character and builds lifetime friendships which aid us as when we face the harsh realities of the world.

Watch the show and be part of us, even for just one night.

***For ticket inquiries and reservations, contact TICKETNET at 911.5555 or contact JUNE at 0916.[illegible] for premium seats. You may also log on to www.liveaidssilver.com for the event brief and other details.

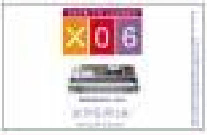
Distinctly Maroon. Definitely Live A.I.D.S.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Lakers, Celtics spank foes /A29



SPORTS



Pacquiao floors big sparring partner



GOING, GONE Chico Lanete of Purefoods loses control of the basketball after getting fouled by Ato Cabagnot of Coca-Cola on his way to the hoop.

Buenafe hot as Coca-Cola rips P'foods

Gomez nears GM title as RP wins

[illegible]

By Ernesto Gonzales

DRESDEN, GERMANY—INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN PAUL GOMEZ MOVED on the threshold of a Grandmaster title as the men's team crushed Belgium, 3.5-0.5, Thursday to set up another Philippine twin kill in Round 7 of the 38th World Chess Olympiad here.

[illegible]



CRUCIAL 4th ROUND John Paul Gomez

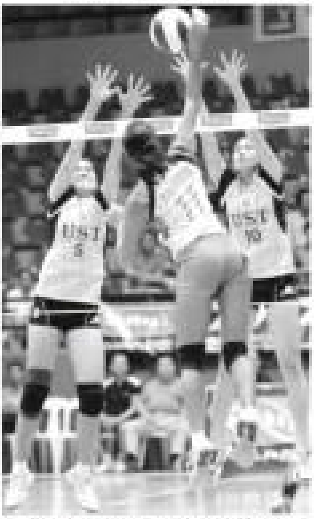
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SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Lady Falcons foil Tigresses again

By Cedelf P. Tupas

[illegible]



ADAMSON spiker Merissa Bautista goes for the kill off Santo Tomas' Mary Jean Balse (left) and Judy Ann Caballejo.

PCCL reappoints Chino as 'Sweet 16' commish

By Norman S. Azurin

[illegible]

PCA serves up 27th Open

By Marc Anthony Reyes

[illegible]

SPORTSWATCH

'Bakbakan' on in 4 venues

[illegible]

SJC 9-stag derby gets going

[illegible]

By Top Choice At Sta. Ana Park

[illegible]

Manny Pacquiao used as a guinea pig?

BARE EYES



Recah Trinidad

[illegible]



SHELL CHESS CHAMPS [illegible]

Sherwood Chairman's Cup comes off the wraps today

[illegible]

Fil-Am seniors tilt tees off in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—[illegible]

Lakers, Celtics spank foes



LA brings down Phoenix; Boston crushes AI, Detroit

POC polls split yet another association

By Marc Anthony Reyes

World champ joins S'pore race

Jittery Annika goes 2 over

Doves eye Uclaa dominance



Top breeders getting ready for NCA derby

Iboda six off the pace in China golf

SPORTS

Aunzo balloons to 74, now 4 off Indonesian leader

Unbeaten Harbour five duels BK

By Jasmine W. Payo

Kiwi netter cuts down ITF Week 1 champion

By Marc Anthony Reyes

Father of Eagle Ridge GM dies

BUSINESS

Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Associate Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Peso breaches 50:$1 mark in intra-day trade

Closes at 49.80 on last-minute bargain-hunting

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY BREACHED THE 50-MARK FOR the first time in two years but late-day bargain-hunting across Asian stock markets allowed it to firm up to 49.82 against the dollar on closing, currency dealers said.

[illegible]

IN THIS ISSUE

Remittances seen to remain above $1B/month

By Doris C. Dumlao

[illegible]

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

STOCK MARKET



Stocks down 4.14%

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 4.14 PERCENT lower yesterday, tracking falls on Wall Street overnight amid weak US economic data, dealers said.

[illegible]

Digitel net loss swelled to ₱2.7B in first 9 months

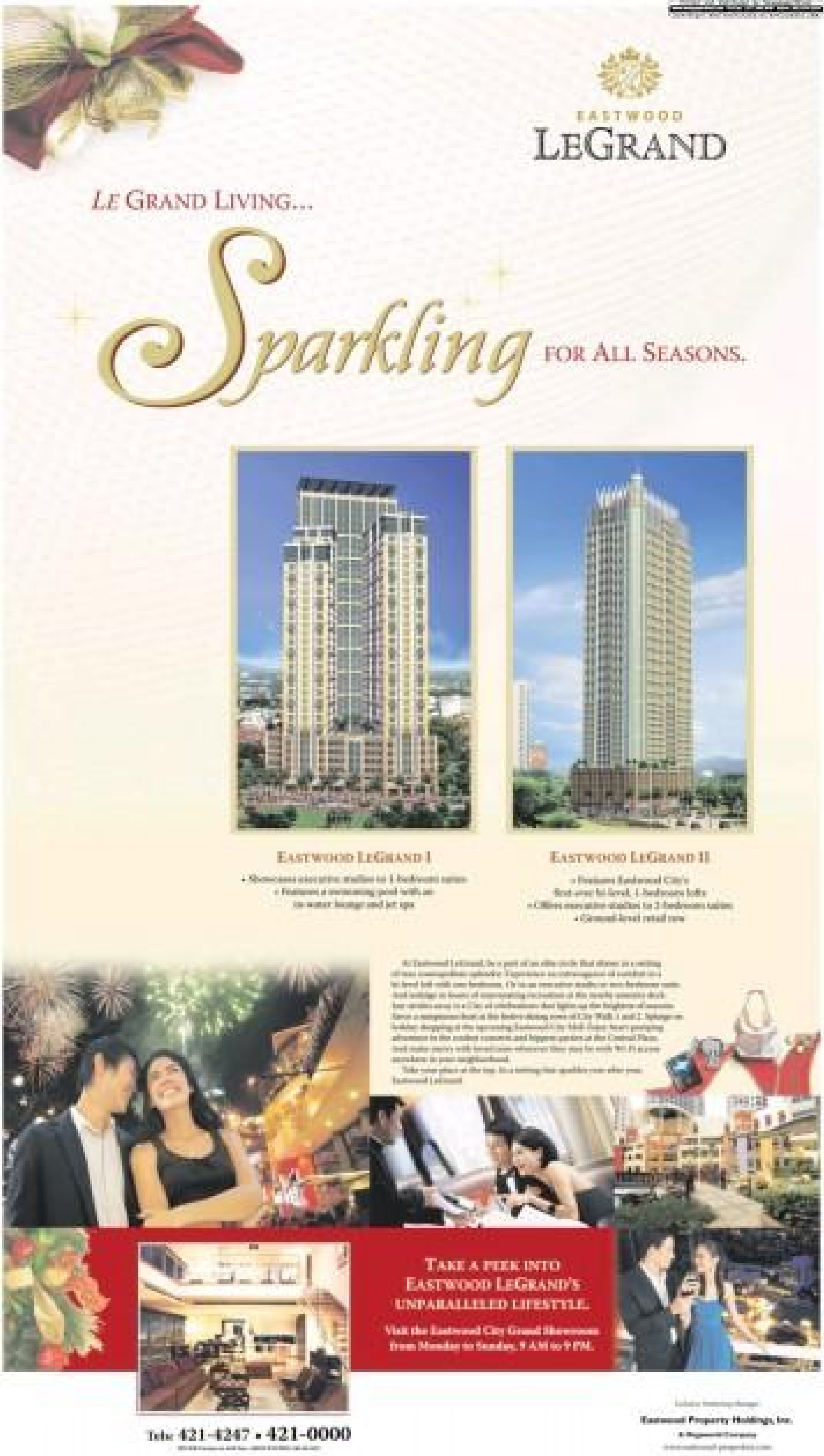
Firm blames forex, market valuation

Eton Properties post ₱213-M loss

Remittances ...

Smart unit revamps mobile brand, strategy

Peso breaches 50:$1 mark in intra-day trade


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HIP TO BE GREEN WITH LUCKY ME! SUPREME

Year-end tax planning-the right way



ANWG HOLDS HEALTH, WELLNESS FORUM

IPMS Bert Anido celebrates 40 years

Rockers meet up for 15th NU107 Rock Awards 2008 Nov. 27

Samaguana's 'Silent Sanctuary' set Nov. 28

Neda chief sees BOP surplus shrinking to $1B-$2B in '09

Pullout of investments, drop in exports blamed

By Michelle V. Remo

The love vote

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

ROUNDUP

APC to offer bonds

HGC income up 15%

Fishermen oppose sectoral talks in WTO

By Amy R. Remo

SCIENCE/HEALTH



Changing the way we regard our bread

'Plate it' for women's health

MEDICAL FILES

Building walls and walks

DISCOVER



Counseling, medications effective in treating depression and anxiety

BUSINESS

Worldwide job cuts darken global outlook

Asian markets rebound, bucking trend on Wall Street



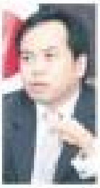
PROPERTY

Editor: Cesar D. Mangawang

Seeing bright future despite impending turmoil

By Charles E. Buban

ANTONY ZUBIRI IS NOT your ordinary executive. He takes pride in the fact that his company, Environments Global Ltd., is the only Filipino transnational at the moment that provides a complete range of services for the built environment.



ZUBIRI: Don't be too worried about the financial crisis.

"Environments Global is largely business-to-business organization whose aim is to be the ultimate provider of 360-degree service solutions for the architecture, engineering and construction industry," explained the company president and CEO.

To its markets spanning the globe, Environments Global is best known through its four subsidiaries, namely The Environment Collaborative, a full-service design bureau for planning, architecture, interior design and other related services; Inolet, a project management specialist; GlobeLand, an integrated solutions provider for the built environment; and BuSource Partners, which specializes in off-shore design process delivery to the AEC industry.

Another arm is the Environments Global Foundation, which is EG's vehicle to implement various community, research, training and outreach programs that support the company's vision of showcasing the Filipino building professional to the global stage.

Convergence

"We are structured in a manner that there is convergence of diverse specializations and each component in our organization, although distinct and separate, draws strength from its association with the others," he stressed.

Because of his organization's unique position in the industry, Zubiri believes they are in the best position to best evaluate the situation.

"A lot of people are worried about the financial crisis. Yes, this country will eventually be affected by the financial crisis. However, it will not be that bad and in fact, the prospects are bright in the AEC sector both here and overseas. The country should take advantage of the opportunities that abound and to create more opportunities that will boost our competitiveness," Zubiri explained.

He added that despite the prevailing financial crisis, the real estate industry is still booming not only in some parts of the Philippines but more especially in the Middle East, Australia, Russia, Spain and other parts of Europe.

Take advantage

Here in the Philippines, Zubiri believed industry players should take advantage of tourism, offshore investments in business process outsourcing, and the domestic real estate demand.

As a matter of fact, Environments Global is expanding its business here and abroad within the next 12 months, doubling the size of its business both in terms of floor space and head count in the next year.

Zubiri disclosed that 10 to 20 percent of its total expansion capital would go to the Philippine head office saying the company is set to expand its office space by about 5,000 sq m in the next 12 months, and then add another 5,000 sq m in the year after.

The company is also looking to increase its manpower by 1,200 to beef up its existing pool of professionals and design experts creating an additional 5,000 jobs in the next three to four years.

This is brought about by the fact that in the past few years, Environments Global has been averaging 50 percent year-on-year increase in revenues and expects this growth to accelerate further as it moves to capture part of the addressable outsourcing global market worth $120 billion (P6 trillion).

Create

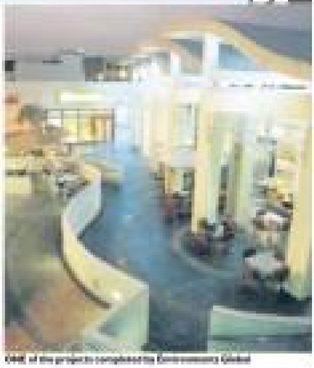
"As you may now realize, we do not wait for opportunities, we create them. Today we are taking small steps to beef up our capacity by increasing our office space, aggressively hiring and training our talents," he said.

Zubiri added that by doing this move, the company will be ready to address future requirements of the industry.

"The company is currently attracting highly skilled design professionals through its competitive business model and rewards package. And because of our international clientele, Environments Global is able to provide its employees the chance to imbibe international standards of excellence in the AEC industry," he said.

Zubiri said this is his company's way of helping the country reverse brain drain.

"As the company retains the best of the best in the field, we may be able to encourage more Filipino AEC professionals overseas to come back home," he explained.



ONE of the projects completed by Environments Global

One Central soon the grand address of success

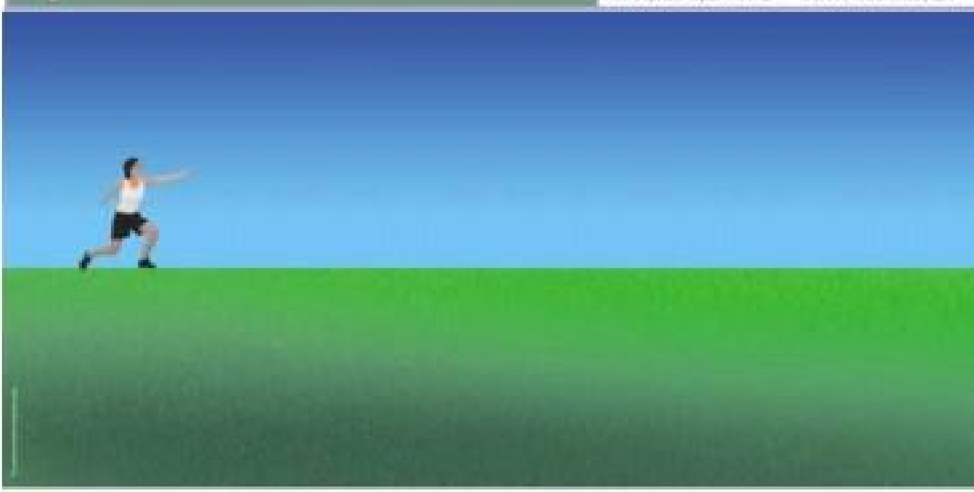




Mahogany Place III lets you find your dream home in Taguig



Discover your living space in Circulo Verde



Cityland builds a tradition to commit and deliver

IN ITS CONTINUING COMMITMENT to offer reasonably priced projects at affordable locations, Cityland, the country's 2007 leading condominium developer, opens another investment opportunity to investors.

An open house is being held until today for Manila Executive Regency located at 1220 Jorge Bocobo Street, Ermita Manila, to welcome all interested buyers. Special promos and discounts are available during this event.

Strategic location

Manila Executive Regency is a 29-storey office, commercial and residential condominium that is near various colleges and universities like De La Salle, UP Manila, St. Paul, St. Scholastica, churches, shopping malls, recreational centers, banks, hotels and restaurants, historic sites and government institutions. It will be equipped with features and amenities for a total living comfort and convenience.

Carefully planned bachelor's pad, studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom units are available in cash or easy payment scheme of up to 10 years on a first-come, first-served basis.

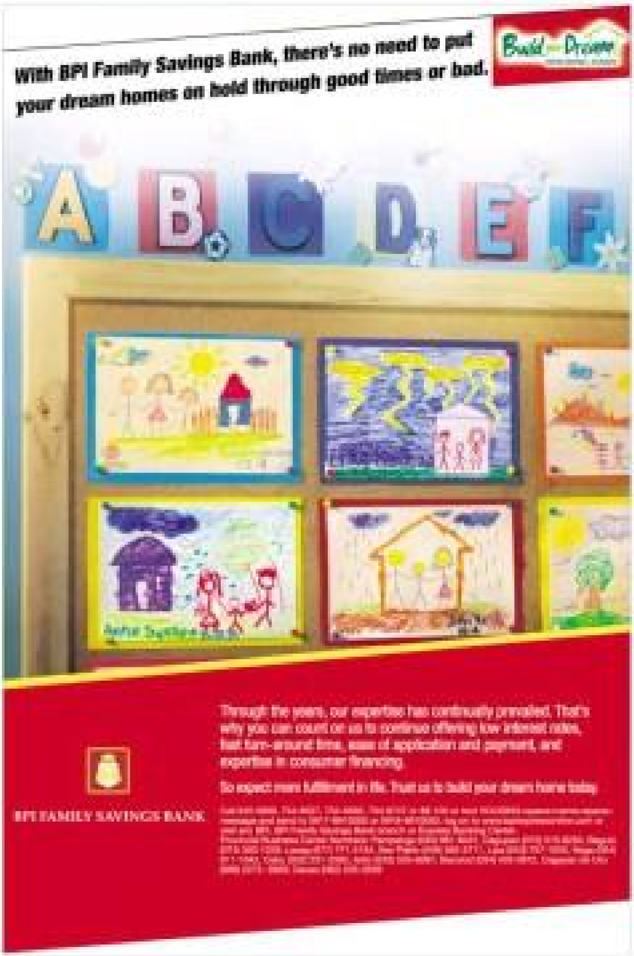
Visit the Cityland website at www.cityland.net.

Cityland, with an undisputed track record of committing and delivering projects even ahead of schedule, targets the turnover of units in December 2009.



MANILA Executive Regency







ARCHITECT'S rendition of Circulo Verde's site plan located in Calle Industria, Bagumbayan, Quezon City





YOUR carbon footprint is a measure of the impact your lifestyle and activities have on the environment in terms of greenhouse gases produced.

Carbon footprint

GREEN ARCHITRENDS



Amado de Jesus

[illegible]

Personal carbon footprint

[illegible]

Largest contributors to emissions

[illegible]

Bali Conference 2007

[illegible]

Focus on existing buildings

[illegible]

Fine-tuning, energy management

[illegible]

Super LifeStyle

The QLE Awards

The author and his rock-fanatic pals give out their version of the NU Rock Awards



MARCUS Highway

By Quark Henares

HERE COME THE CRANKY old men, sourgraping about how the under-appreciated geniuses of our time aren't paid any attention.

You know what I'm talking about—people who blog about how [illegible] should've won and how [illegible] got the nom simply because they lobbied. But let's face it—awards based on numbers aren't exactly the most reliable ones; and I know for a fact that 90 percent of [illegible] votes for a certain band in this year's Rock Awards came from only two cell phone numbers.

It just so happened that during one party Erwin Romulo, Luis Katigbak and I were sitting around and pointing out people who were really talented yet never seemed to get any loving from the list. In other words, we were old men sourgraping. We decided to do something about it, and agreed to collectively write small tributes to our favorites this year.

Hence, the QLE Awards.

Before I begin, I'd just like to clarify that I love the NU Rock Awards. I've even written two and directed one. But controversy is always good, so why not use that to highlight and point towards some of the artists who have truly touched us this year?

Best new artist

[Erwin] [illegible] And Love Of Control

Just because they're metal and they don't give a F**k.

[Luis] Ang Bandang Shirley

They're not rock gods or avant-garde experimentalists—they're the people that you meet, when you're walking down the street, each day. Except that they have an enormous talent for impeccable pop tunes and quirky heartfelt lyrics. And enormous appetites as well.

[Quark] Taken by Cars

A lot of people accuse Taken by Cars of ripping Bloc Party off. I say they're better than Bloc Party. "Endings of a New Kind" is the kind of debut that feels like it was made after years of working and collaborating as artists, and individually the instrumentalists have that perfect balance of sounding cool yet sounding completely organic.

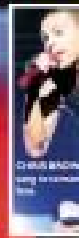
THE QLE / C3

Rihanna and Chris Brown delight 70,000 Filipino fans

Girls screamed for his nipples while guys ogled at her dangerously tight tanga top. Both performed energetically (the singers, not the girls and boys)







PLEASE DON'T STOP THE MUSIC. Rihanna onstage



Spread Eagle

Video of the year

Comeback of the year

Album covers

Live act of the year



SANDWICH

Artist of the year

The QLE Awards

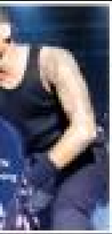
3 grumpy old men give their 2 cents on who should get the prize at the Rock Awards

Album of the year

SONG OF THE YEAR >



Taken by Cars







A Grand Symphony of Voices at the SM Mall of Asia's Christmas Wonderworld

Christmas won't be the same without the heart-warming songs of the Yuletide season. Reminisce on your fun-filled Christmas memories with friends and family at the SM Mall of Asia's Christmas Wonderworld Grand Symphony of Voices.

Not your usual 10-year-old



MARSHA, A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE WHOM I haven't seen in ages, called me up the other Thursday. After our usual colorful exchange of pleasantries and updates, she mentioned that we should meet up at this new bar in Makati that all "the kids" were raving about. She gave specific directions to the place: Drive along Valero Street; look for Anzel 2000 (your landmark is a pizza parlor across the street); and go up the second floor.

As soon as I found the building, I knew I was in familiar territory. Finding Marsha in the parking lot up front, I yelled, "Hey Honey!" "Get in!" she laughed. We went up the stairs past the lobby guard and entered... Il Ponticello.

Found in an unusual spot in Makati, "Ponti" (as it's more popularly known) is a survivor. Celebrating its 10th anniversary this November, the bar has managed to ride the ups and downs of a fickle industry. Chalk it up to good service and great food: the place is actually an Italian restaurant that morphs into a bar come nighttime.

We hadn't been here in a while and I was pleasantly surprised that the Alenano (their take on pork sisig) and the Calabria (squid with mushrooms) were still as tasty as ever. Perfect with your choice of beer or wine.

We asked our server if they still had our favorite "fun" drinks: colorful pitchers of innocent-looking mixed drinks that smacked you in the head when you least expect it. Of course they still served my personal favorites: Azzurri, Bacci, and their Kamikaze pitchers!

But since it was a weeknight, I opted to drink beer and proceeded to look around. I noticed the place slowly filling up and by 11 o'clock, packed with not much space to walk around in.

I soon found out that aside from your alcohol and food, you also get served with a couple of sets from Overtone, a super band that plays every Thursday. After hearing two killer sets, we set off for home vowing to visit again, especially since Ponti was being completely renovated in time for its birthday party on the 28th! I hope they upgrade their smoke management system and replace their furniture). I can't wait until my next visit.

Bar Name: Il Ponticello
Address: 2/F Anzel 2000 Building, 121 Valero Street, Makati City
Contact Info: 887-7166 / 887-4990
Hours: Open for Lunch on Mondays to Fridays, bar opens at 5 p.m.
Favorites: Alenano / Calabria P310
Beer: P50 / **Cocktails:** P150-250
Azzurri / Bacci / Kamikaze Pitchers: at P 1,100
Happy Hour: from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. / Buy 1 Take 1 on local beer. Buy 1 Take 2 until 9 p.m. for Sparrow/Blue Card holders
Theme Nights: GLAM ROCK on Tuesdays, ACOUSTIC on Wednesdays, OVERTONE on Thursdays







Super LifeStyle

SUPER EXCLUSIVE!

'The Amazing Race Asia 3' finale was sometimes stirring, sometimes hilarious, sometimes heartbreaking, and often chockfull of drama. Super was there till the very end



One heck/hack of a ride



BANGKOK—GEOFF Rodrigues and Tisha Silang are exhausted. It's four in the afternoon and the couple just arrived in the city after missing their flight last night.

"Oh my God" were the first words out of Tisha's mouth when she entered the hotel room where I was waiting for them. Geoff looked like he just wanted to lie down on the bed.

"When we finally stepped inside this hotel, we were expecting to see Allan [Wu, the host]," Tisha says. "And he'd tell us, 'I'm sorry, you're the last team to arrive.'"

I could imagine how stressful it was to find an airline that could take them here, in time for the finale party of "The Amazing Race Asia 3" where all the teams reunite and watch the final episode together.

What an irony that on the very day that their "Amazing Race" journey would end, they're still racing—scrambling to get into the fastest flight, rushing to get a cab, dashing to reach their destination.

To settle for second

Seven countries, 11 cities, 11,000 kilometers of road adventures—and for the Philippine team, the final outcome depended on a Phuket taxi driver.

Unfortunately for Geoff and Tisha, the cabbie had no idea where he was going to take them. This right spot proved to be the most crucial of all as the couple was left to settle with the second-place badge, finishing behind best buddies Sam Wu and Vince Chung from Hong Kong.

"Thirty-six minutes and 11 seconds behind, dude!" Geoff screams with regret. Since he

ONE HECK D2

SUPER EXCLUSIVE!

One heck/hack of a ride



From page D1

entered the room, he's been manic, anxious, all over the place—you could tell that he's upset and yet you can't deny the little glimmer of excitement in his eyes.

"It hurts that this whole time, people would come up to us and say, 'I'm sure you guys won!'" he says. "It feels bad to have let everyone down."

Winner takes all

Vince shares, "It feels especially—what's the word?—poignant that we're celebrating the finale here in Bangkok, exactly where this whole race started for us."

> Sam said, "It's good to let it out. We won! We won!"

When champs Sam and Vince entered the room earlier that day, it was the total opposite. Vince's eyes were red. This guy didn't get any sleep, I thought. Yet like his teammate Sam, he was unusually bouncy.

When I introduced myself, they shook my hand with a bit of suspicion—naturally wary of the whole journalistic agenda, I thought. When I told them that I just got an exclusive screening of the final episode a few seconds before they entered—meaning I knew that they had won—they breathed a sigh of relief.

"All this time, the hardest thing has been to hide the fact that we actually won," Sam says. "It's good to finally let it out!" He then resorted to jumping around the room shouting, "We won! We won!"

Both attribute their win to a mix of luck and sheer ability. "Luck played so much. But on the things that we could control—like our tempers—we handled with the best of our abilities," recalls Vince, who's wearing a pink shirt with the words DELAY NO MORE emblazoned in front. "The other things, we just relied on prayer."

"We were confident with our abilities," Sam says. "We went in thinking we could win this. But when it finally happened, we were full of disbelief. I was like, NO WAY!"

Embrace the race

For third placers Ida Nerina and Tania Khan, it's about looking back at the whole experience and realizing that they've had the best time. I [illegible] with all the other teams and they unanimously pointed out those two as the ones who had the most fun throughout the race.

"There is just no point in getting stressed out," says Tania, a [illegible] in Malaysia. She entered the room in a wheelchair, still recovering from a little accident last week, and when her right foot was stepped on by a four-inch stiletto worn by "a girl who had too much tequila."

She's also very much pregnant. "I actually didn't know that I was two months pregnant when I did the race—when I bungee jumped, ran laps, and paraglided on the dunes. We wanted a complete, fulfilling, fascinating, crazy experience—and hell yeah we got that!"

Her best friend Ida, a popular actress, seconds her thought. "We went to the race expecting the best and the worst, expecting to enjoy and say 'We wanted to appreciate everything that the race would put us through' and that's the reason why we had such a bubbly disposition."

Valuing it all

"People ask us what we learned from this race and it's not just one thing," Ida says. "It's a plethora of things that make up who we are now."

"For the entirety of my life, I made decisions based on what my

SEE RIDE D4


FINISH line

Spread some love and cheer with Jollibee's Hug and Share Dolls





Have you gotten hold of the cutest thing this Christmas?

Well, you better hurry 'coz people - both young and old - are trooping to the nearest Jollibee stores across the country to get Jollibee's limited edition Hug and Share dolls.

Young fans and the young-at-heart can't resist Jollibee's miniature version with that baby-faced smile, cute trademark coat and tie with wings, adorable chef's cap and those chubby feet and fingers. Even the most scrooge-spirited souls would find it hard to resist giving the doll a big squeeze with its bright, soft and delightfully huggable material.

You can share a special tune too with the country's well-loved and favorite mascot. After removing the plastic stub found beneath the heart, you just need to gently press the heart-shaped pillow in the middle and then you can sing along to the tune of Jollibee's 30th anniversary jingle. Definitely, it's Jollibee's cutest incarnation yet!

The Jollibee Hug and Share Doll is Jollibee's way of thanking its millions of loyal customers who have made it the country's number one fast food chain and sharing with them the joy of celebrating 30 bida-ful Langhap Sarap years.

But that's not all, when you buy the Jollibee Hug and Share Doll, you will also help put a smile on a child's face this Christmas. May mapapasaya ka na, may natulungan ka pa.

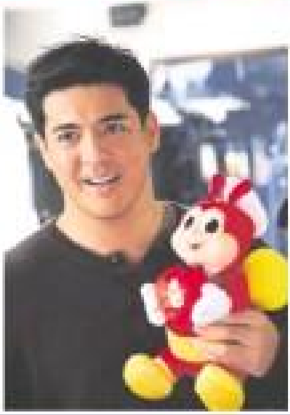
A portion of the proceeds from the sales of the Jollibee Hug & Share Doll will support the beneficiaries of Mag-go ang Pasko that is now on its 14th year of spreading cheer to children.

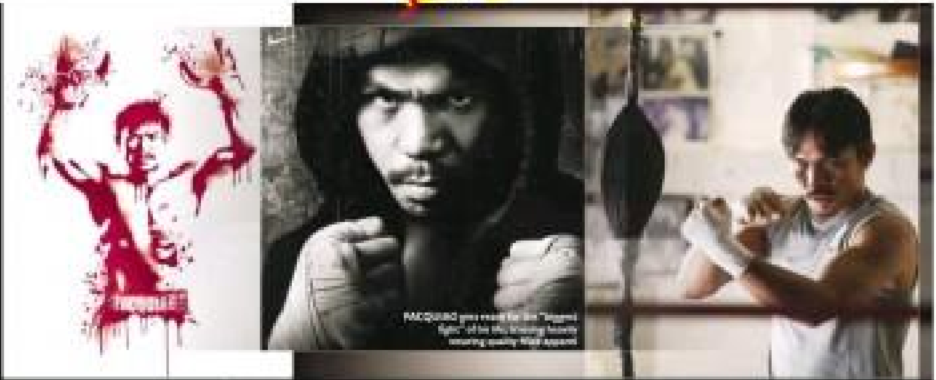
"Our patrons who adore Jollibee will not only have a chance to own this special keepsake, they will also help spread love and cheer to many children this Christmas season. This is the value of giving and sharing that we at Jollibee have always been espousing," Jollibee VP for Marketing Gold Tantoco emphasized.

The Jollibee Hug and Share Doll is available for only P260 with any food or drink purchase at all Jollibee stores nationwide until December 15, 2008.

Hurry, get these cute Jollibee Hug and Share Doll and help make someone feel loved this Christmas.

This project is in partnership with the Jollibee Franchisee's Association.





PACQUIAO gets ready for the "biggest fight" of his life wearing top-quality Nike apparel

NIKE SUPPORTS PACQUIAO ON THE 'BIGGEST FIGHT' OF HIS LIFE



NIKE's latest campaign highlights Manny Pacquiao's God-centered life

Just do it, Manny

By Kenneth M. de Rosario

AFTER TAKING DOWN SOME of the biggest boxing legends of this generation, boxing champion Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao has more than left an indelible mark in the international sweet science scene.

Boxing champion of four weight divisions, the now undeniable world's best pound-for-pound boxer has successfully positioned himself in the threshold of "immortality," it seems.

What's even more amazing—he did so (and still is doing it) in such high fashion, wearing only quality sports apparel worthy of a world champion's trust.

Through it all, Nike still got his back.

With the upcoming "Dream Match" on December 6—where he is pitted against another sporting legend himself, Oscar "Golden Boy" de la Hoya, Pacquiao is on to some thing when he said this is indeed the "biggest fight" of his life.

On the run-up to this historic match, Nike once again, like in the past, launches a national campaign that aims to rally support for the sports legend.

Starting today, campaign billboards can be seen along the busy roads of Edsa Santolan and C5.

The billboards work in tandem with an engaging digital campaign housed in nike.com.ph, along with the launch of the new Manny Pacquiao Nike FIT-DRY Tee, now up for grabs at select Nike stores across the country.

This is not the first time Nike did such an innovative activity for Pacquiao.

The Nike-Manny partnership started in 2006 with the sporting brand providing premium performance products that helped improve the athlete's performance. Since then, Nike had been supplying the boxing great with his much needed sporting gears.

Two years ago, Nike rolled out a local campaign that brought an iconic image of Pacquiao onto billboards and shirts, which found its way into different media channels. The Inquirer was no exception, having featured in its front page (November 16, 2006 issue) an image of the clenched-fisted Manny Pacquiao, arms raised, in a billboard along EDSA.

Last year, Pacquiao's historic win against Marco Antonio Barrera brought Nike to develop a local video that quickly spread online—a sign of support from a unified, proud nation.

Nike also rendered Pacquiao a specially designed identity mark and crest, making him the first Filipino awarded an honor from such a global brand.

Pacquiao was also included in Nike's television commercial earlier this year along with some of the world's best and most popular sports athletes.

Pacquiao joined the ranks of superstar athletes such as tennis wonders Roger Federer, Maria Sharapova, and Serena Williams, basketball champions Michael Jordan, LeBron James, and Kobe Bryant, and sports legends Lance Armstrong, Alex Rodriguez, and Tiger Woods.

"Nike is proud of what Pacquiao has achieved as a boxer. With his tremendous boxing skills, coupled with passion and heart, he is indeed the epitome of Nike's 'Just do it' spirit," said Francisco Mauricio, Nike Philippines country director.

"We are now going on our third year of partnership with Pacquiao and we are committed to supporting him on his next big fight," he said.

Truly, the boxing legend has proven that he is a force to reckon with in his relentless drive and passion for the sport. When he steps into that ring next month, he not only fights for a career high but represents the entire nation as well.

So children, all together now: Just do it, Manny!

For more information on the Nike-Manny campaign for '08, log on to www.nike.com.ph.

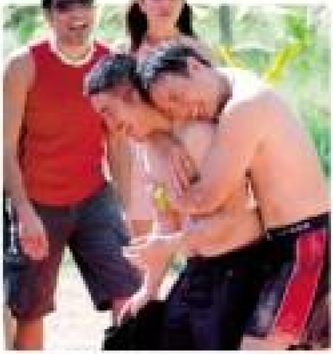


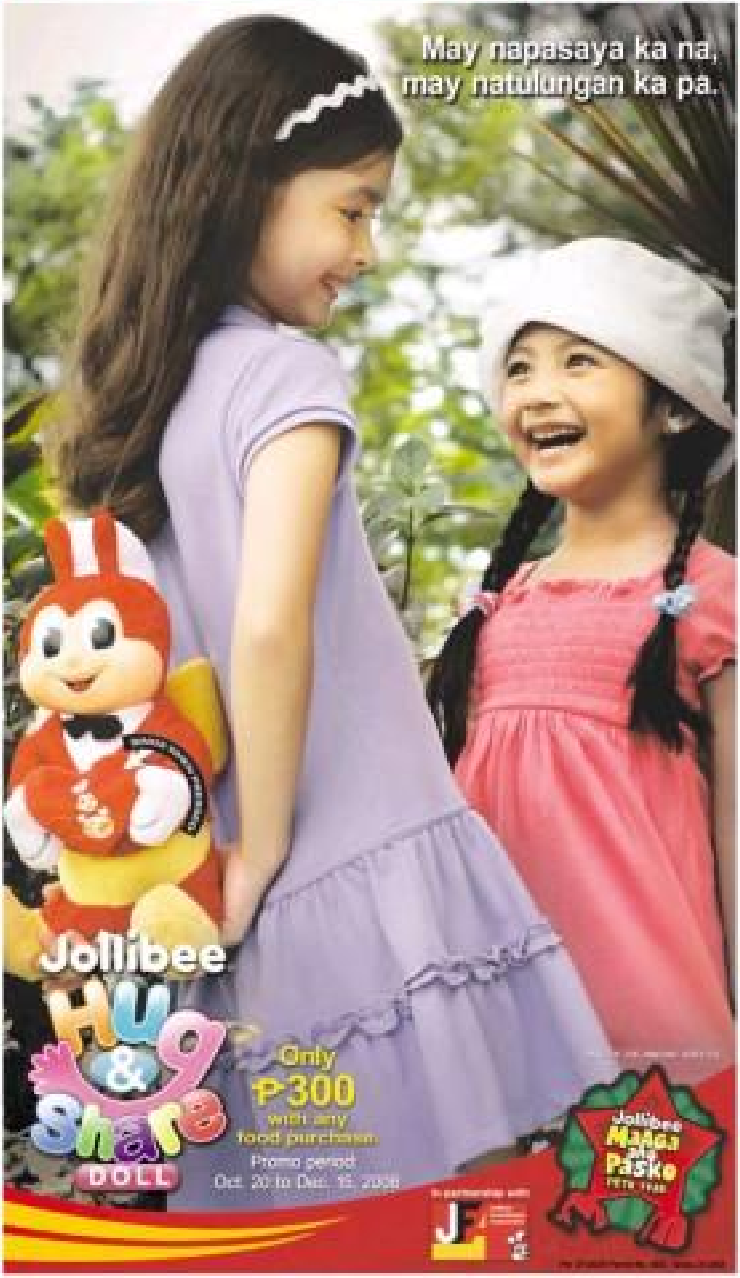
A light moment for coach Freddie Roach and Pacquiao as they take a break from their sonic practice session.



THE STATEMENT printed in this new shirt captures Pacquiao's legendary stature







One heck/hack of a ride



Super LifeStyle



SUPER EXCLUSIVE

I was inside 'CSI New York'

AXN took Super to Los Angeles to meet the cast of 'CSI New York' and boy, did we investigate

By Pam Pastor

IT'S A BUSY TUESDAY AT CBS RADford Studio City in Los Angeles for the cast and crew of "CSI New York." They are working on "Help," the 12th episode of their fifth season, which fans of the series in the Philippines will get to watch next year when the new season airs on AXN.

"Don't forget to exercise your right to vote!" the call sheet reminds the cast and crew. But that morning, they have other things on their mind than Obama and McCain. Like the ugly victims they have to seek justice for in the episode they are filming. And the presence of the international press in their set.

Crime drama

Not that the press pose any threat, no. They are all busy raiding the buffet spread of the crafts services while waiting for the day's scheduled interviews.

"CSI New York," a procedural crime drama, is the youngest show in the "CSI" franchise. Although initially perceived by viewers as dark and gritty, the show underwent a big change in the second season.

Pam Veasey, the show's executive producer and co-showrunner explains the development: "We realized that when people go to New York City, where they go see Times Square and the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty and none of those places are very dark or gritty, they're beautifully lit and bright. There's color everywhere. We thought the show should reflect what New York City is to most people or what they dream it to be. New York should be alive and vibrant and busy and cluttered and active. We go for dangers, fine, but we make sure New York is alive, that you go there and there's something about that city specifically that you didn't know. We try to tell a story with little intimate details about the city."

Since then, audiences have embraced "CSI New York" and ratings have steadily climbed season after season. The show has also received three Emmy nominations — two for Outstanding Stunt Coordination and One for Outstanding Makeup for a Series.

Huge hit

There's a good reason the show has become such a huge hit. Real-life CSI Tech Adviser Bill Haynes says, "Everybody loves a good mystery. A mystery just has a timeless appeal. And we pair that with extravagant, extraordinary visuals."

The show is supposedly based in New York but most of it is actually shot in LA. Pam says, "Most of the sets are on this lot but we do make an effort to put in as much of New York as possible. We shoot in New York two times but we also have really terrific visual effects guys. We just built the top of the Empire State Building at our parking garage last week. We built the Statue of Liberty on a set here. Our visual effects guy can put our people on New York rooftops. They can turn an LA skyline into New York."

The cast and crew spend about eight to 10 weeks working on each episode and each episode cost about two million dollars to make. Bill says, "An amazing amount of work goes into it during that period. There's a lot of overlap. It's this assembly line that never stops. It will make your head spin."

We witness this assembly line that Tuesday, as the cast members sneak out one by one between takes to sit down and answer questions about their characters and about the show.

Crime lab

After the interviews, they return to the CSI crime lab to finish shooting. The CSI New York lab is impressive — they are complete with the latest equipment in forensic

I WAS/E2

SUPER EXCLUSIVE

Meet the cast of C



Gary Sinise on Mac character: 'I'm a bit goofier'

Despite the terrific exposure he has gotten as a result of leading 'CSI New York,' Gary Sinise prefers playing with his band at Madison Square Garden



Make-or-break kid lands big break

The fact that I'm playing a gifted scientist on television right now is hysterical, says AJ Buckley who plays lab tech Adam Ross



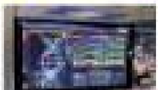






I was inside 'CSI New York'

From page F1



THE DNA analysis on the CSI NY sets/lab

Competition

ON THE set of CSI New York

CSI New York

She's a mom first and a CSI second

You'll know which trailer is Melina's - there's a plastic slide beside it





on 'CSI New York'



Aniston's object of desire in 'Friends' comes to his own

Forget about Tag. Eddie Cahill's CSI New York character Det. Don Flack is not just a pretty face

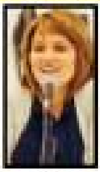




She's not squemish about creepy-crawley things

Anna Belknap doesn't get hounded by paparazzi. 'I'm too boring,' she says





Autopsies are not exactly this actor's cup of tea

On 'CSI,' Robert Joy has done countless autopsies. In real life, he's too scared to go to a morgue





2bU
LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan · Supervising Editor Pam Pastor



'Twilight' tees

By Pam Pastor

What should you wear when the movie opens on the 26th? These Cebuanos have the answer

[illegible]





TEE TIME: Bella will love these shirts.

More on the 'Twilight' movie

By Pam Pastor

STEPHENIE MEYER WAS EXcited to see her work translated to film but only if the filmmakers remained true to the books. [illegible]

Organic world

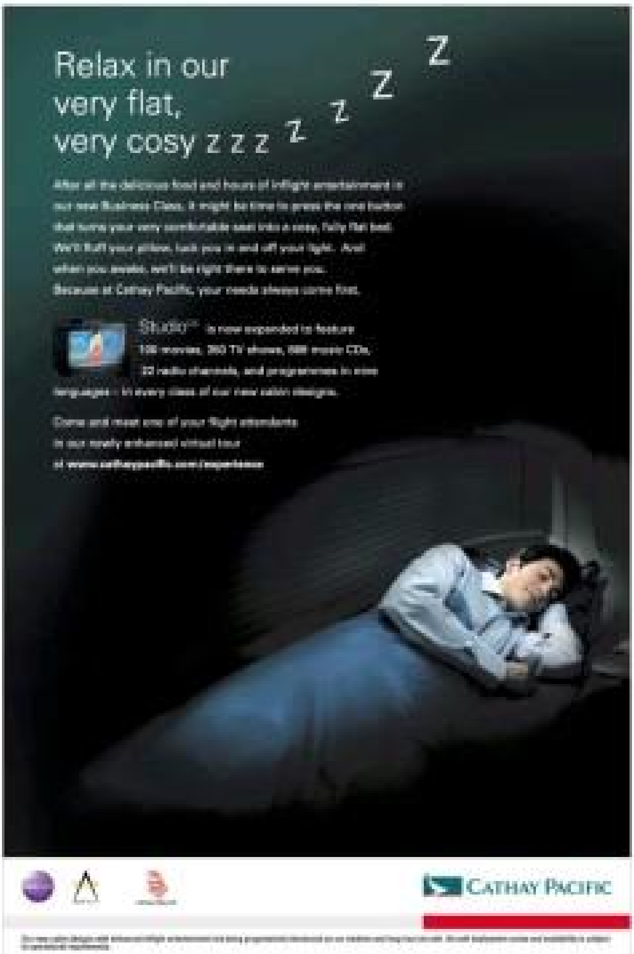
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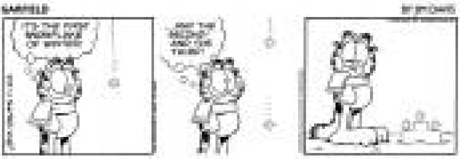


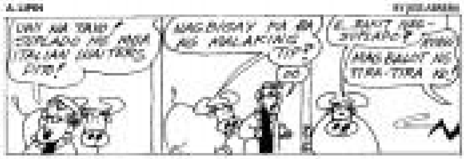
EDWARD comes to life.

[illegible]

MORE E1

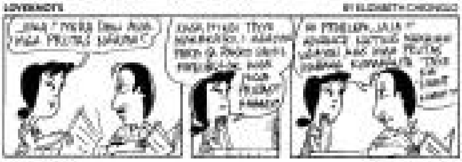




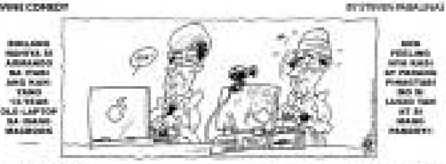


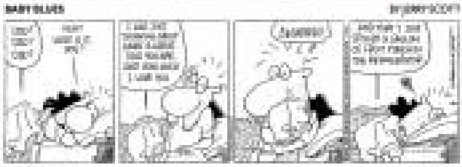


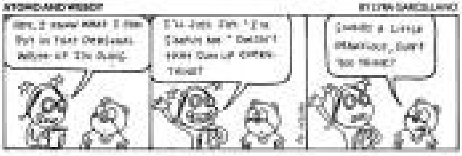


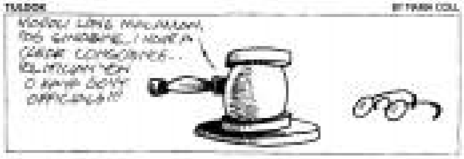


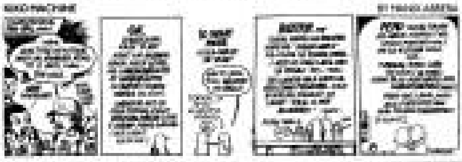






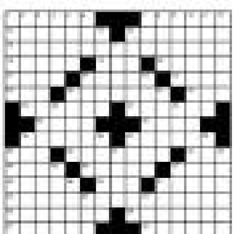


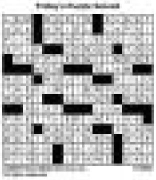






DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

3			1		2			4
9		5				7		8
	7		4		1		5	
	6		7		9		4	
6		3				8		2
4			6		7			1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

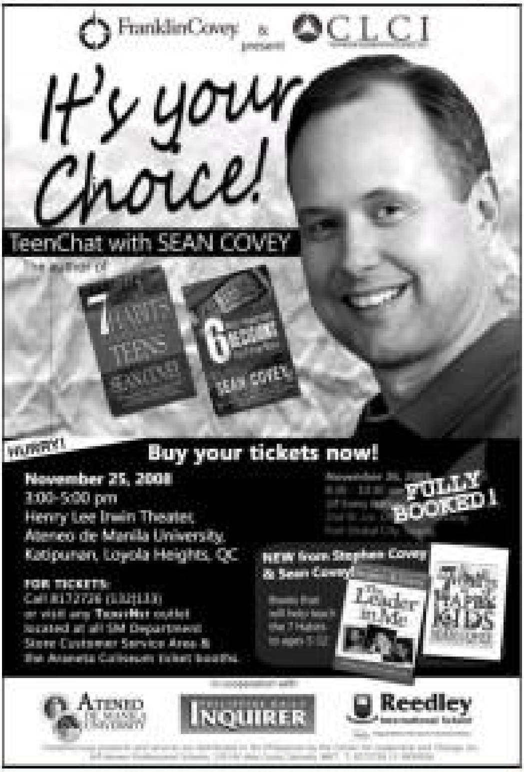
Answer to previous puzzle

More on the 'Twilight' movie

Harder to cast



THE CULLENS

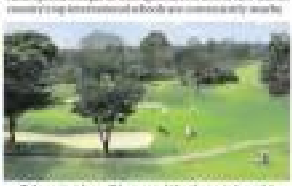


Last chance for much-coveted golf views at 8 Forbes Town Road









MEGAWORLD

Individualize your Inbox

Nino Mark M. Sablan
2bU Correspondent

GOOD NEWS FOR GMAIL FANS: themes are now available to modify the look and feel of your accounts.

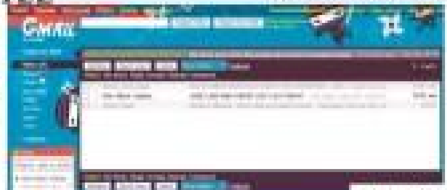
You might want to first enjoy Gmail's new default look, which is crisper and cleaner, thanks to a little change in the colors. But if you can't wait to change the look of your Gmail account, just go click on Settings, and then Themes, and then you can choose one of the 31 colorful themes to make your e-mail experience more fun.



THE DESK theme comes complete with polaroids, a pencil, a calculator and a coffee spill.

For those who want a simple change, you can choose a color palette theme such as Mocha (in different shades of blue) or Bonsai (compound of brown and orange, which reminds me of orange-flavored chocolates). Two other easy-on-the-eyes themes are Shiny, which has a gradient gray shade on the background, and the charming Cherry Blossoms, which features, of course, lots of pink flowers.

Some of the themes are nature-inspired such as Tree, Beach, Mountains and Summer Ocean. What's interesting is that some of these themes automatically change scenery over time, according to your location. Other themes have cute cartoons in them such as Ninja, a curly-haired girl holding a cute ice lolly and a giraffe with a seriously long neck.



WITH the Ninja theme, your inbox is surrounded by star-throwing and sword-holding ninjas.



THE PEBBLES theme gives you that Zen vibe while you're replying to your e-mail messages.

A sure standout would have to be the Desk theme, which has a wood background to give you that desk effect (complete with polaroids, a calculator, a pencil and a coffee spill). Even more amusing is how the inbox is transformed into a spring-bound notepad.

Enjoy G-mailing with a new theme today!

G-mail the author at: [illegible]@gmail.com



IF YOU want something dark and simple, the Contrast Black theme uses black, white, yellow and a couple shades of gray.



Delicious kris kringle

YEAR AFTER YEAR, PARTY AFTER PARTY, the art of exchanging gifts has fallen into a routine as presents become more predictable, and surprises are whittled down to a minimal few.

Luckily, trendy French café Delifrance is adding a dash of daring and a large dose of generosity to the usual kris kringle, turning it into a metro-wide phenomenon.

With just a click on the My Secret Santa website (www.mysecretsanta08.com), Filipinos can dust off those tired Christmas lists and, instead, a Secret Santa with a bottomless sack of freebies to give away.

"The My Secret Santa campaign is the first and biggest kris kringle celebration Metro Manila has ever been," says William Tan-Untiong, president of Delifrance Philippines. "We have removed all the usual constraints of gift-giving. Now, everyone can become a Secret Santa and send delectable Delifrance treats to as many of their friends and loved ones. And yes, it's all for free."

Secret Santas partaking in this grand holiday giveaway can choose from two special goodies: Almond Star Cookies (available Nov. 10 to 23) and Chocolate Chip Almond Biscotti (available Nov. 24 to Dec. 7).

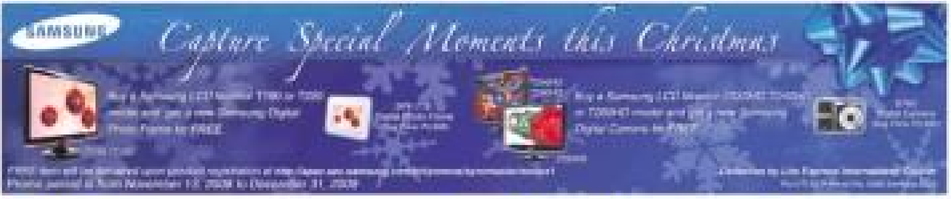
Almond Star Cookies are almond-topped, gluten-free cookies that are a delightful cross between a light macaron and a sweet meringue. As a playful twist to the classic German Christmas cookie, the Almond Star Cookies can charm the most discerning sweet tooth in town.

Meanwhile, the Chocolate Chip Almond Biscotti can sum up the holiday cheer with its choco-nutty goodness. Paired off with a steaming cup of Delifrance espresso, the Chocolate Almond Biscotti becomes an invigorating treat for those late-night coffee chats.

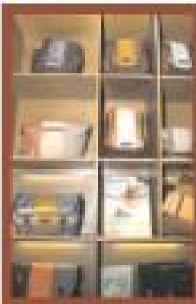
"My Secret Santa is more than just virtual greetings. Everyone who receives its e-mail gift coupon can redeem it for real treats at participating Delifrance stores in Metro Manila," explains Tan-Untiong. "What's great also is how the cycle of giving and receiving repeats itself. Those who get a gift from a Secret Santa can become one themselves by paying forward their goodies, so to speak. This makes for a wonderful spirit of gift-giving."

To participate in the My Secret Santa campaign, log on to www.mysecretsanta08.com. For inquiries, contact [illegible]. Visit Delifrance branches at [illegible].

2bU LIFESTYLE



What does your school bag say about you?



Bags for everyone

Bratpack opens its first flagship lifestyle concept store

By Bianca Consunji
Photos by Ryan Fernandez

NOWADAYS, PEOPLE seem to be getting more and more obsessed with bags—and we're not just talking about designer bags. Thanks to brands that offer specialized designs for different bags (like backpacks, laptop sleeves, messenger bags or small purses), students, yuppies, outdoorsy types and techies no longer have to settle for generic bags that don't reflect their personalities.

If you're looking for the perfect bag for school, work or play but don't really feel like crawling through a dozen stores, make sure to drop by the newly opened Bratpack flagship store in Greenbelt 5.

But the store, which is Bratpack's largest branch, isn't just a bag



A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

There's something for everyone on Christmas at Century Park Hotel



Christmas party packages at The Richmonde Hotel



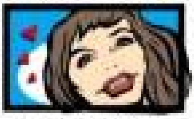
City Garden Hotel Makati is your best pre-holiday getaway

ASR Condotels' annual appreciation dinner



SHANGRI-LA SAYS 'DAGHANG SALAMAT, CEBU!'

He's straight but people think he's gay





Unicef's Walk on the Child's Side Nov. 23

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Fine desserts in New Horizon Hotel



The trendiest vibe dining in town



Good mornings at Kalye Juan

Sulo Hotel presents Bollywood

Kids rule at SushiYa!



FEEL AT HOME AT MAKATI PALACE HOTEL


CUTE frisbees


POP ART purses


T-SHIRTS from Manila [illegible]

Bags for everyone

From page G1

shop—it's a lifestyle concept store.

"The store caters to your every need from head to toe," says Raquel Serrano, channel manager for Jansport. "We no longer just offer bags; we have clothes, shoes, accessories, and other small but necessary items for day-to-day life."

Aside from bags, the store


PASTEL passport holders


LOMO cameras for sale


BAGS Of every shape and color

carries men and women's apparel, accessories, shoes and sports items from more than 20 brands (and counting). Are you an outdoorsy mountain climber? The North Face has durable backpacks for your outdoor explorations. Are you a high school or college student in search of a sturdy but cute backpack? Jansport has a new line of graphic design bags. Maybe you're looking for a professional bag for your first day at work—then go look for a messenger bag in Hedgren.

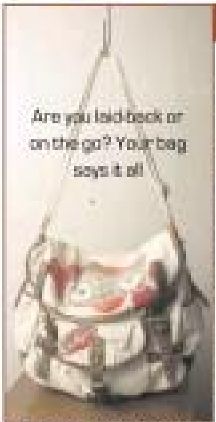
Other current brands of bags, clothing and accessories include Timbuk2, Vans, DC, Aigle, Life is Good, Tough Jeans, Nalgene, Kickers, Philips and Eastpak, while customers can expect new arrivals from Tree Religion, Tevo and Teecom by December.

Even boyfriends or brothers with short attention spans won't get bored here, as the store's merchandise is equally divided between both sexes. Plus, if they really don't like shopping, they can still have fun checking out the store's cool interiors, designed by architect Ahdo Guerrero in collaboration with graphic design group Team Manila.

Check out the Jansport flagship store at the 2nd floor of Greenbelt 5. Call 728-4028.

E-mail [illegible]

What does your school bag say about you?



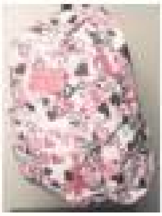
Bags with buckles and zippers
People who choose bags with lots of buckles and zippers tend to unleash their wild sides. They tend to act before they think and are always ready for a good time. The extra buckles and zippers signify a "wild" image.

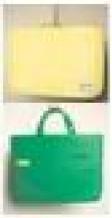
By Bianca Consunji
Photos by Ryan Fernandez

"A PERSON IS defined by the kind of bag he or she carries," says bag psychologist Lisa Mapaga. "It's a miniature home—the bag is a symbol of belonging and an extension of the self."

It's no wonder that people are obsessed with bags—after all, if you're judged by the bag you carry, then it's always best to put your best foot (or arm) forward. And we're not talking about brands here, but styles; after all, not everyone can flaunt a designer bag.

What's your everyday bag? Do you usually carry a messenger bag, backpack, or tote bag to school or work? Read on to find out what your bag says about you.





Brightly colored bags
Brightly colored bags like pink, purple, rose and green indicate that the user is fun, friendly and approachable. People who are outgoing and sociable tend to choose these colors. People with bright bags will usually strike up a conversation with a complete stranger.



Messenger bags
Often used by trendy, on-the-go individuals who need a lot of space but don't want to use traditional backpacks or stuffy briefcases. They're hip, trendy, and easygoing.



Small bags
Since small bags hold only the absolute necessities, mature, organized people often use clutch bags.



Big and bulky bags
Bulky and oversized bags are casual and are often associated with younger individuals who tend to bring their entire house with them and require a lot of space. Down-to-earth, low-maintenance people often use big bags.



Neutral colors
People who choose black or brown handbags tend to be more reserved and professional and are often mistaken as snobbish. They're practical and no-nonsense.

In step with adventure

CONFUCIUS SAID THAT A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. But what he forgot to say was that it has to be a step out of the box.

"You want to get out of that square long enough and sooner or later you start to become one," says adventurer Khoo Swee Chiow. "So I quit my stable, high-paying job and decided to follow my passion."

Since taking that first step to more appropriately taking the plunge, Swee Chiow has scaled the seven highest mountains in each continent or the Seven Summits, conquered the seas, by swimming of the South Pole, survived the extreme journey to the North Pole, and fulfilled his long-time dream of climbing Mount Everest—which he did twice. "People always ask me why I do the things I do. And I always tell them that it's simply because no one has ever done it before."

Now, Swee Chiow goes around the world as a motivational speaker, sharing stories from his expeditions to inspire others to step out from behind their desks and explore, just as he did for the biggest outdoor sports and recreational hub in Asia, ROX. "This is my first time in the Philippines and I can't wait to see what's out there."

Being a mountain climber, Swee Chiow is set to climb Mt. Pulag, which is the highest peak in Luzon. It frames the provinces of Benguet, Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya. Called by locals as the "playground of the gods," Mt. Pulag's various trails, breathtaking views and its famous mystical sea of clouds—that covers everything except the tips of the Cordilleras—makes it a dream adventure destination for every outdoorsman.

For climbs, Chiow suggests that both beginners and professionals always carry essentials like a backpack, water bottle, a flashlight and extra batteries as well as a whistle and mirror in case an SOS device in case you get lost or hurt. These equipment can be found at ROX which carries active lifestyle brands such as Coghlan's, Columbia, Hedgren, Eureka, Lafuma, HiTec, Millet and The North Face.

Swee Chiow is also going to visit Sagada. These are only two of the many adventure destinations in the country which Department of Tourism Secretary Ace Durano aptly described as an adventure buffet for the picky tourist with each island giving a taste of adventure, fun and life—and what a treat the Philippines is.

Other adventures that outdoors can enjoy in the Philippines include spelunking in Nueva Vizcaya, which is home to the fifth longest cave system in the country, [illegible] and the birds in Negros Occidental and climbing Mt. Pinatubo.

Visit ROX at Bonifacio High Street (Global City, Taguig).

For more information, call [illegible] or e-mail [illegible] or log on to [illegible].


KHOO Swee Chiow reaches great heights.

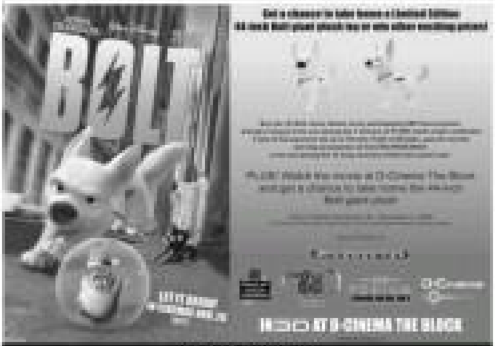
SATURDAY Special

SEAN PENN brings extraordinary depth to 'Milk'



PENN. Plays a gay activist in acclaimed biopic

SM Cinema movietime



METRO MANILA

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IMAX
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THE PODIUM
QUANTUM OF SOLACE
BURN AFTER READING
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MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 ONE TRUE LOVE
3 MONSTER SLAYER
4 SEX DRIVE
5 BURN AFTER READING
6 PASSENGERS
7 LALAMUNAN
8 IndieSine: CONCERTO
9 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
10 WALANG KAWALA

ERMITA

1 MONSTER SLAYER
2 BURN AFTER READING
3 ONE TRUE LOVE
4 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
5 SEX DRIVE
6 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
7 ONE TRUE LOVE / WALANG KAWALA
8 LALAMUNAN
9 PASSENGERS

METRO EAST

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 ONE TRUE LOVE
3 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
4 SEX DRIVE
5 MONSTER SLAYER
6 BURN AFTER READING
7 PASSENGERS
8 THE WOMEN

NOVALICHES

1 ONE TRUE LOVE
2 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
3 THE WOMEN
4 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA

PIONEER

1 ONE TRUE LOVE
2 BURN AFTER READING
3 SEX DRIVE
4 MONSTER SLAYER



STA. ROSA

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 ONE TRUE LOVE
3 BURIED ALIVE
4 CITY of EMBER

LIPA

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 ONE TRUE LOVE
3 NIGHTS in RODANTHE
4 LIVING HELL

DASMARINAS

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 ONE TRUE LOVE
3 LIVING HELL
4 TROPIC THUNDER

IMUS

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 ONE TRUE LOVE
3 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
4 LIVING HELL

ANGELES

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 ONE TRUE LOVE
3 LIVING HELL
4 THE STRANGERS

STARMILLS

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 ONE TRUE LOVE
4 MY ONLY U
5 CITY of EMBER
6 THE WOMEN

BACOLOD

1 ONE TRUE LOVE
2 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
3 BURIED ALIVE
4 THE SISTERHOOD of the TRAVELLING PANTS 2
5 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
6 TROPIC THUNDER

ILOILO

1 ONE TRUE LOVE
2 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
3 BURIED ALIVE
4 EAGLE EYE
5 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
6 THE SISTERHOOD of the TRAVELLING PANTS 2



Sean Penn brings extraordinary depth to 'Milk'



PENN: Complete control of his entire instrument.

Archival footage

Research

Erratic boyfriend

Gastronomic treats from the north



Authentic Ilocano dishes

Happy eating!

Monsters, mayhem boost horror-comedy



FOX AND CROWLEY: Team up to battle creatures that go bump in the night.

By [illegible]

THE INDIE HORROR-COMEDY, "JACK Brooks: Monster Slayer," is low-budget, non-CGI-enhanced, and has no marquee-name stars. What it has a lot of are blood, gore, tentacles, and gross excretions. In spite of this—or perhaps because of this—the movie is surprisingly entertaining.

Though not as gut-bustingly funny or as gross-out gooey as "Slither," this Canadian production does manage to elicit more than a few decent laughs, and it has its share of memorable icky moments. However, a faster pace and a shorter set-up would have made it enjoyable all throughout.

Camping trip

Directed by Jon Knautz, the film stars Trevor Matthews as the title character, Jack Brooks, a hot-tempered plumber with rage-control issues. Jack's problem with his temper started when he was still a kid, right after witnessing his parents and younger sister being slaughtered by a Neanderthal-like monster while the family was on a camping trip.

The movie plays as a flashback, starting out promisingly in what is supposed to be an unexplored African jungle, where a couple of natives are battling a one-eyed monster. What it actually looks like is the backwoods of a North American suburb, where actors in bright costume face paint are pretending to chase spears at a guy in a rubber suit—you can't help but laugh at the utter ludicrousness of it all.

But, just when you're expecting things to get even better (read: campier), as we are introduced to Jack's character, the film slows down and devotes too much time to the protagonist's uninteresting therapy sessions and other lackluster scenes.

With his shrill-voiced girlfriend, Eve (Rachel Skarsten), Jack is taking a science course at night under Professor Crowley (Robert Englund), who asks him to help him with a plumbing problem in his creepy-looking house. While trying to unclog the pipes, Jack unwittingly lets loose an evil force in the professor's backyard! He drives home not knowing that, in a few hours, his professor will turn into a tentacled blob!

Scene-stealer

Matthews, who also produces, looks like he's just going through the motions and is completely upstaged by Englund and David Fox. Englund hams it up as the mutating Crowley and Fox, who plays an ancient clerk in a hardware store, is a scene-stealer despite being in only a few scenes.

While the film's first half will try your patience, it picks up speed as the focus shifts to where it should be: Monsters and gruesome mayhem. Once students start running and screaming down the school corridors and tentacles slither at high speed across the floors, "Jack Brooks: Monster Slayer" finally has you right where you want to be!

SATURDAY *Special*

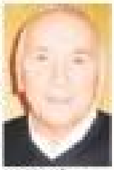
Frank Langella goes from Dracula to Nixon



ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales







Potentially confounding viewing fare for children

By Nestor U. Torre

[illegible]

Major factor

[illegible]

Sex-oriented situations

[illegible]

Showrooms at LRI

STREET SMART

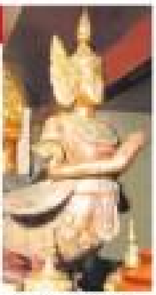
Mandy Navasero



[illegible]

Rousing success

[illegible]



"GODDESS" in the Lagaspi collection.

Frank Langella . . . From page 1

[illegible]

Advance screenings

[illegible]

Celebrated case

[illegible]

'Laki sa Gatas' advocate inspires kids

MONTAGE

[illegible]



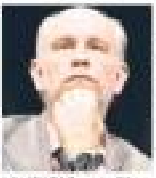
MAMA BEAR and Kaps Bear reinforce the importance of Go, Grow and Glow foods in milk brand's nutrition education campaign.

'Burn After Reading'

[illegible]



STEWART AND PATTINSON: Pop lovers in unusual vampire flick.



MALKOVICH: Portrays a CIA analyst in action comedy.

Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards Philippines

[illegible]

'Twilight'

[illegible]

Pump It Up! competition

[illegible]

NU107 Rock Awards 2008

[illegible]

'In the Land of Women'

[illegible]

'Wow Baca' festival

[illegible]

Skechers Streetdance finals

[illegible]

New albums from Cole, Benet

[illegible]

Mark Herras goes indie in 'Sapi'

[illegible]



HERRAS: Topbills digital feature.

'Live Aids'

[illegible]

'OPM Crossroads'

[illegible]



COLE: Sings covers in "Still Unforgettable."

CHRISTMAS CARNIVALE AT filiCity

the city of life.

Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
FILINVEST-ALABANG

This Week

Nov. 14 - 30, Mini Trade Hall
LA UNION'S FAIREST SA ALABANG
Take in the various offerings of La Union in this showcase of the province's products!

Nov. 21, 5pm, Carousel Court
MAGPI 8TH ANNUAL OPEN STAGE MAGIC COMPETITION
See if the hand is quicker than the eye as the country's top magicians compete in this amazing magic show!

Nov. 22, 4pm, Carousel Court
CARNIVALE QUEEN
Cheer on these gays decked in full Mardi Gras regalia as they compete for the title of Carnivale Queen!

Nov 29, 4pm, Carousel Court
KARYLLE & PDA SCHOLAR INAKI TING
Fill your ears with the melodic voices of Karylle and Iñaki Ting in this mini concert!

Dec. 6, 5pm, Carousel Court
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL
Catch Sam Concepcion, Cheska Ortega and GMA talents in this one hour musical show!

Up Next

Dec. 7, 5pm, Carousel Court
"FINALLY, ISA VILLANA" MALL TOUR

Dec. 9, 5pm, Carousel Court
MARTIN NIEVERA "MY CHRISTMAS LIST" MALL TOUR

Dec. 11 - 14, Mini Trade Hall
AUTO CYCLE SHOW

Dec. 13, 2 pm, Carousel Court
CHRISTMAS BALLET
Association of Ballet Academies of the Philippines

Dec. 14, 3pm, Carousel Court
CHRISTMAS SWEETS, KIDDIE TREATS
By QTV I Hero's Kitchen

Dec. 15 - 30, Mini Trade Hall
CELEBRITY BAZAAR

Dec. 18, Carousel Court
EAT BULAGA LIVE
Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto, Joey De Leon and Eat Bulaga Cast

Dec. 21, 2pm, Carousel Court
CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA IN CONCERT

Dec. 30, 4pm, Carousel Court
10TH ANNIVERSARY GRAND DRAW AND BEST OF CLUB MWAH

WESTGATE

Nov. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, Dec. 5, 6
NIGHT MARKET
Come get the very best of this season's best finds, available 'til midnight

Dec. 6
VOXMAS "A VOLKSWAGEN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION"
Catch the Christmas spirit with this Volkswagen Car Show!

Dec. 12
IN THE MOOD FOR JAZZ
with Eddie K & Rachel Alejandro

Dec. 17
JAZZ NIGHT WITH VINCE LAHORRA

Dec. 19
IN THE MOOD FOR MORE JAZZ
with Frenchie Dy & Luke Mijares

SOUTH STATION

Nov. 28
SAYAWAN, KANTAHAN ATBP
with Mack Haynes, Gil Bataller & the DOP Boys
Enjoy this entertaining variety of songs and dances!

Nov. 28 - Dec. 3
SUPER PASKO NIGHT MARKET
Get the best bargains and shop non-stop as the sun sets!

F@stBytes
@ NORTHGATE CYBERZONE

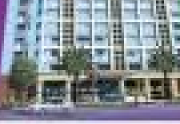
Dec. 5
BATTLE OF THE BANDS
Rock your hearts out as talented call center bands go head to head to see who rocks the most!



There's never a dull moment at

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
FILINVEST-ALABANG

Shop your way to a **WEST PARC ALDER** Condo Unit Grand Prize!
SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS



celebrating 10 years of Fun!

High marks for Regine's 'Low Key'



Aggressive belting

Personal journey



Summit unites indie filmmakers



Clueless

Another factor

WHAT'S INSIDE
Shocking images on the 'boobsy' tube /J3

SATURDAY Special

NOW SHOWING

Pitt steals Clooney's thunder in Coens' screwball comedy

By Rito P. Asilo

"Burn After Reading"
D: Ethan and Joel Coen
S: George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Frances McDormand, John Malkovich and Tilda Swinton


PITT: Lights up every scene he's in.


CLOONEY: Hams it up as a married woman's lover.


McDORMAND: Plays a gym employee who wants to "reinvent" herself through cosmetic surgery.

AFTER THE CRITICAL AND COMMERCIAL success of "No Country for Old Men," what could Joel and Ethan Coen do for an encore? We'd naturally expect a follow-up that's just as substantial, right? But, then again, the sardonic-scary siblings are not known to play to expectations. In "Burn After Reading," they return to the breezily unconventional filmmaking aesthetic and sardonic wit that were on glorious display in 1987's "Raising Arizona" and 1996's "Fargo."

The Coens' screwball comedy follows a series of events that ensue after a CD containing the unpublished memoir of Osbourne Cox (John Malkovich)—a CIA analyst who quit his job after he was demoted because of his drinking problem—ends up in the hands of gym employees, Chad Feldheimer (Brad Pitt) and Linda Litzke (Frances McDormand), who's been wanting to "reinvent" herself through cosmetic surgery.

Intriguing information

Thinking that the disc's intriguing information is more important than it is, Feldheimer and Linda conspire to blackmail the arrogantly defiant Cox. And, the fact that Linda's insurance company refuses to pay for the extensive—and very pricey—surgical procedures she's been excited about adds greater urgency to the situation!

But, the scheming duo's plan soon backfires and drags more people into the confounding fray, including Cox's rancorous pediatrician wife, Katie (Tilda Swinton) and her spineless and unattractive other man, Harry Pfarrer (George Clooney)—not to mention some very suspicious Russian bureaucrats! It doesn't take long before deception, greed and vanity take a heavy toll on their lives.

The film is more entertaining than cerebrally engrossing. Characterized by its breezy pace and tongue-in-cheek humor, it assures a mirthful crush of witty but benign jests—and triumphs as a comedic contention, because the diverse motivations and silly antics of its self-absorbed protagonists draw viewers into their personal world.

Clooney, Pitt and McDormand look like they're having the time of their lives. Pitt is adorable as a dim-witted personal trainer—and he lights up every scene he's in, so you feel sorry when his character rides away from the cursed building through the movie.

Swinton and Malkovich can play cold-hearted vixens and angry villains, respectively, with their eyes closed, so it's no surprise that they're unapologetically ruthless here. Unfortunately, Clooney is as hammy and smarmy as his character's casual sexual encounters—and all that head-bobbing distracts from his performance's overall ...

There's a lot of frothy fun to be had in "Burn After Reading," but it would be foolhardy to take it seriously. Take your cue from the CIA boss (JK Simmons), who instructs the intelligence agent assigned to the case: "Report back to me when it all makes sense!"



DICAPRIO AND GORE (RIGHT). Use their influence and popularity to promote the greening of Tinseltown.



Hollywood spotlights environment

LOS ANGELES—HOLLYWOOD IS TURNing the silver screen "green," but cutting waste, energy and costs in an industry known for big budgets and over-the-top productions is not easy, even in the trend-setting movie business.

The industry has long used star power to help the environment. A-list stars such as Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert Redford are well-known environmentalists and Al Gore's 2006 Oscar-winning "An Inconvenient Truth," about global warming, is widely credited for making the issue more mainstream.

Now, the industry is trying to reduce the environmental harm caused by its big film and TV shoots. "While celebrities have long been environmental activists, studios and production companies have been cautious about adopting the green philosophy as it applies to their business operations," states Zahava Stroud of Hollywood Shows, which will host a "Hollywood Goes Green" conference next month.

Profitability

Sustainable solutions should also help studios improve profitability during the economic downturn. To "green up" their businesses, studios now have departments dedicated to reducing their carbon footprints and have even offered staff incentives to buy hybrid cars.

But, the biggest challenge is cutting down on the excesses of large-scale productions. "While there's been a lot of greening at studio lots, what still needs to be focused on is the actual production process, in terms of fuel consumption, energy efficiency, waste generation and food sourcing," explains Lauren Selman, chief executive of Reel Green Media.

Some observers cite the industry's massive use of fuel and diesel engines on location as its biggest problem. "Consider how much fuel we use: Generators, night shoots, 'distant locations,' trucks per shoot, moving cranes, moving everything, people, wardrobe, grip equipment, etc.," film and TV producer Judith Ames writes in [illegible], an online publication for women in Hollywood.

Studio executives agree. "The infrastructure within the studio is much more conducive to green guidelines, but once production goes on location, it gets difficult," admits Shelley Billik, vice-president of environmental initiatives for Warner Bros.

But, the studios have made some big green strides. Last year, 20th Century Fox, NBC Universal, Paramount, Sony Pictures, Walt Disney, Warner Bros., ABC and CBS collectively diverted 20,862 tons of studio sets and other solid waste from landfills to reuse and recycle, according to Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).

As a result, the studios prevented the emission of 85,497 metric tons of greenhouse gases—the annual equivalent of removing 14,178 cars from the road.

As it addresses more challenges, Hollywood and its stars can at least always be counted on getting the message out. *Reuters*

National Artist selection...

From page B1

[illegible]

Vigilance

[illegible]

Stature

[illegible]



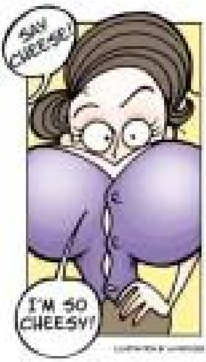








Shocking images on the ‘boobsy’ tube



Pressure

Coverage

Queen Latifah plays AIDS activist in HBO film



LATIFAH: Won Best Actress awards for her performance in "Life Support."

Commitment

Prejudice

National Artist selection process needs improvement



Prospects

SATURDAY *Special*



JOVOVICH, BURTON, FORD, VAN DAMME AND HILTON. Dangerous—to your mental health!

Out of the silly mouths of stars

WHEN SOME CELEBRITIES OPEN THEIR mouths to speak, watch out. What you hear may be dangerous to your—mental health?

Jean Claude van Damme: In an action film, you act in the action. If it's a dramatic film, you are in the drama.

Roberto Benigni: Charlie Chaplin used his ass better than any other actor. In all of his films, his ass is practically the protagonist. For a comic, the ass has incredible importance.

[illegible]

Milla Jovovich: Starring as Joan of Arc was incredibly trying on a physical level, but what kept me going was the thought that, no matter how difficult it was for me, I knew it had been more difficult for Joan.

David Hasselhoff: Beyond its entertainment value, "Baywatch" has enriched and [illegible]

DELIGHT IN THE MAGIC OF THE HOLIDAYS!

Christmas is just around the corner and magic is starting to happen at SM Supermalls.

Visit SM and discover an array of holiday gift possibilities. You'll even find a few surprises for yourself.

SM Department Store is filled with items that'll surely bring a smile to anyone's face. From clothes to shoes to home décor to gadgets, it's definitely a treasure trove of gift ideas.

While at the mall, pick-up a new outfit for yourself. With all the holiday parties, a new dress will surely come in handy.

After spending the day cruising through the stores, sit back, relax and enjoy the Magical Sounds of Christmas. The UP Singing Ambassadors and a number of local choirs will visit various SM malls to serenade the crowd with Christmas carols.

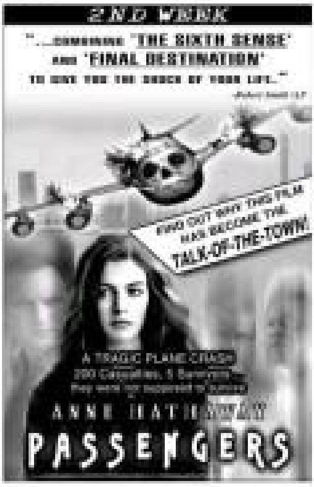
Then, visit the SM Foodcourt and grab a snack. It's the perfect way to re-energize yourself for another round of shopping!

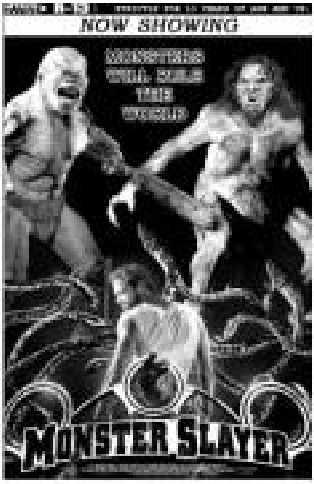
Christmas is definitely magical at SM Supermalls this year.

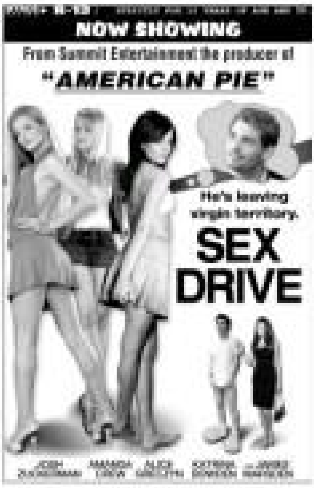
Happy holidays and happy malling!











Out of the silly mouths...

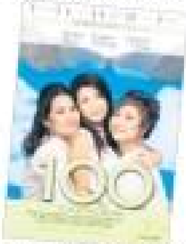
Terribly romantic





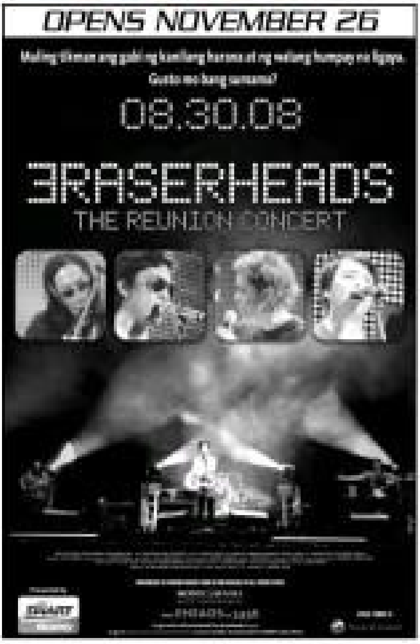
Stories

Chris Martinez goes from screenwriter to director



Biggest challenge





Free will

Lotus Pond



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

Service

Is there 'One More Time' for Britney Spears?



Second chances

Tickets

Personal affairs


"Here's Rob's crush at school, mom!"
Now the whole family can enjoy WeROAM.
PLDT Landline and Landline Plus subscribers can get WeROAM's wireless broadband Internet, with speeds of up to 2Mbps.* If you avail of the WeROAM Pay-Per-Surf option, you pay only for the minutes you use. Up your Internet experience with the widest coverage powered by the PLDT network.
For more information, log on to www.myworldmydsl.com or call 171.
* Actual speeds are dependent on location, hardware, software, Internet traffic and destination server.
Wide coverage
P10 30
Pay-Per-Surf option
No reloading needed
Powered by PLDT
Automatic Centre
VillMan
PLDT WeROAM
Now, everywhere is home.
With the power of WeROAM, you can: Research for school · Chat with friends and family · Exchange e-mail · Download music, games and videos · Set up webpages and blogs to keep in touch with family and friends